



EXPLORING



The Wild City, Beta Architecture, 2011
(Investigating/speculative project)

EXPLORING



The Wild City, Beta Architecture, 2011
(Investigating/speculative project)



Landgrab City, Joseph Grima, Jeffrey Johnson,
José Esparza, 2009 (Installation)

The Wild City

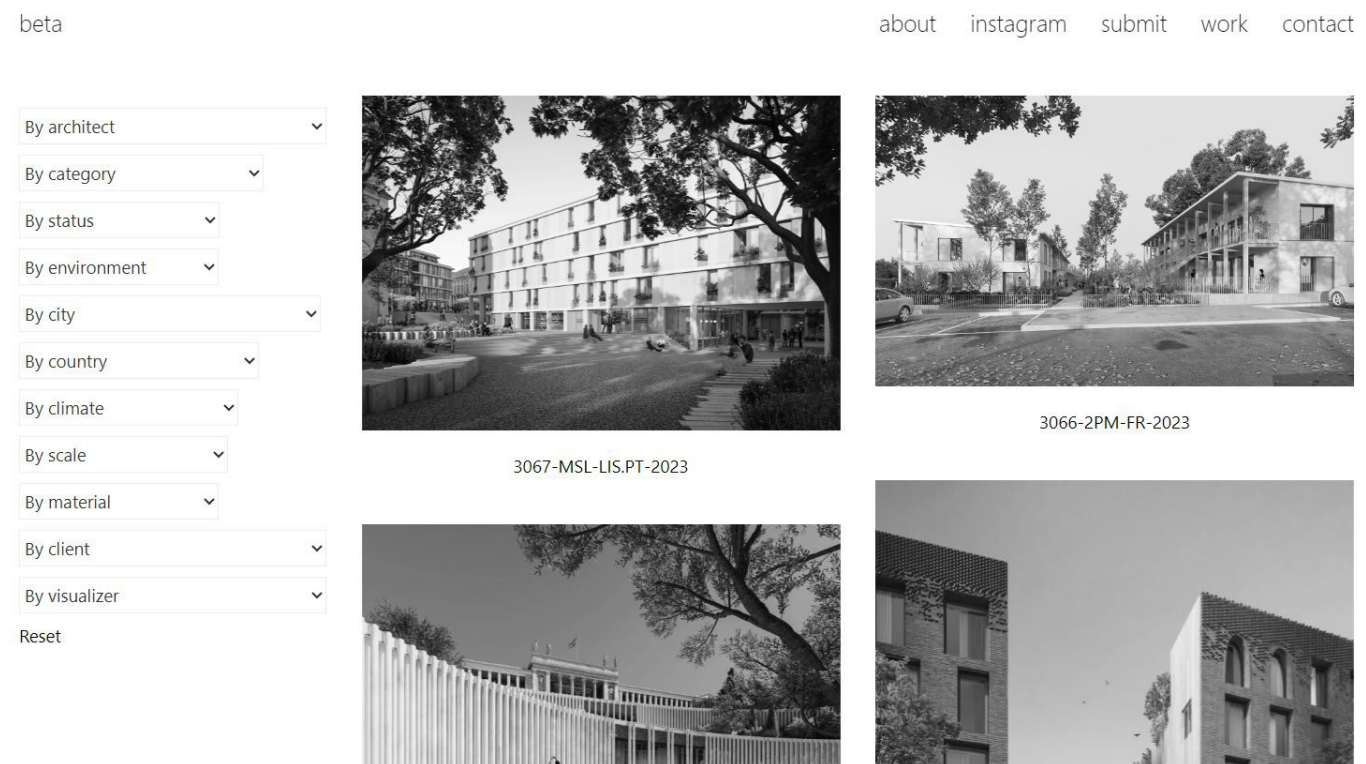
Beta Architecture

2011

Investigating/speculative

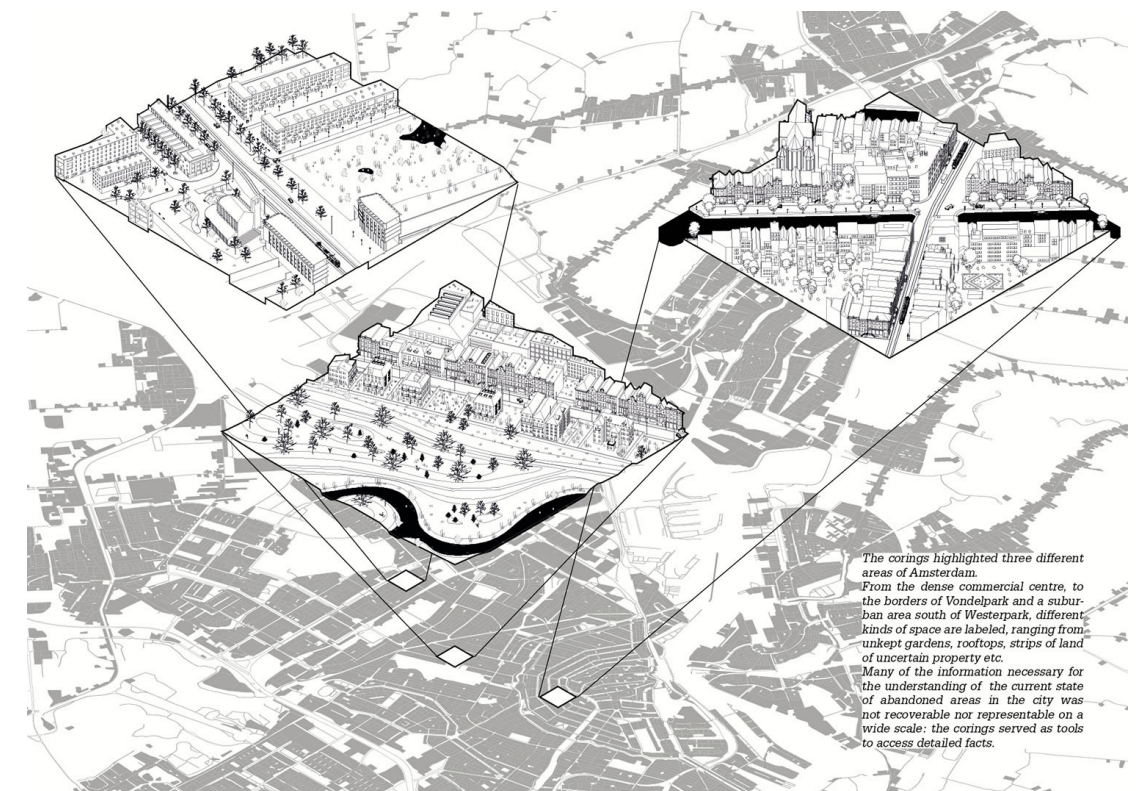
Beta architecture (Beta Collective)

- An unbuilt project platform for architecture competitions and academic works.
- Approach: To provide a tool for the architectural community in the initial phase.



“ ... where all its essential items are thought, reflected and defined, without being verified in the real world “

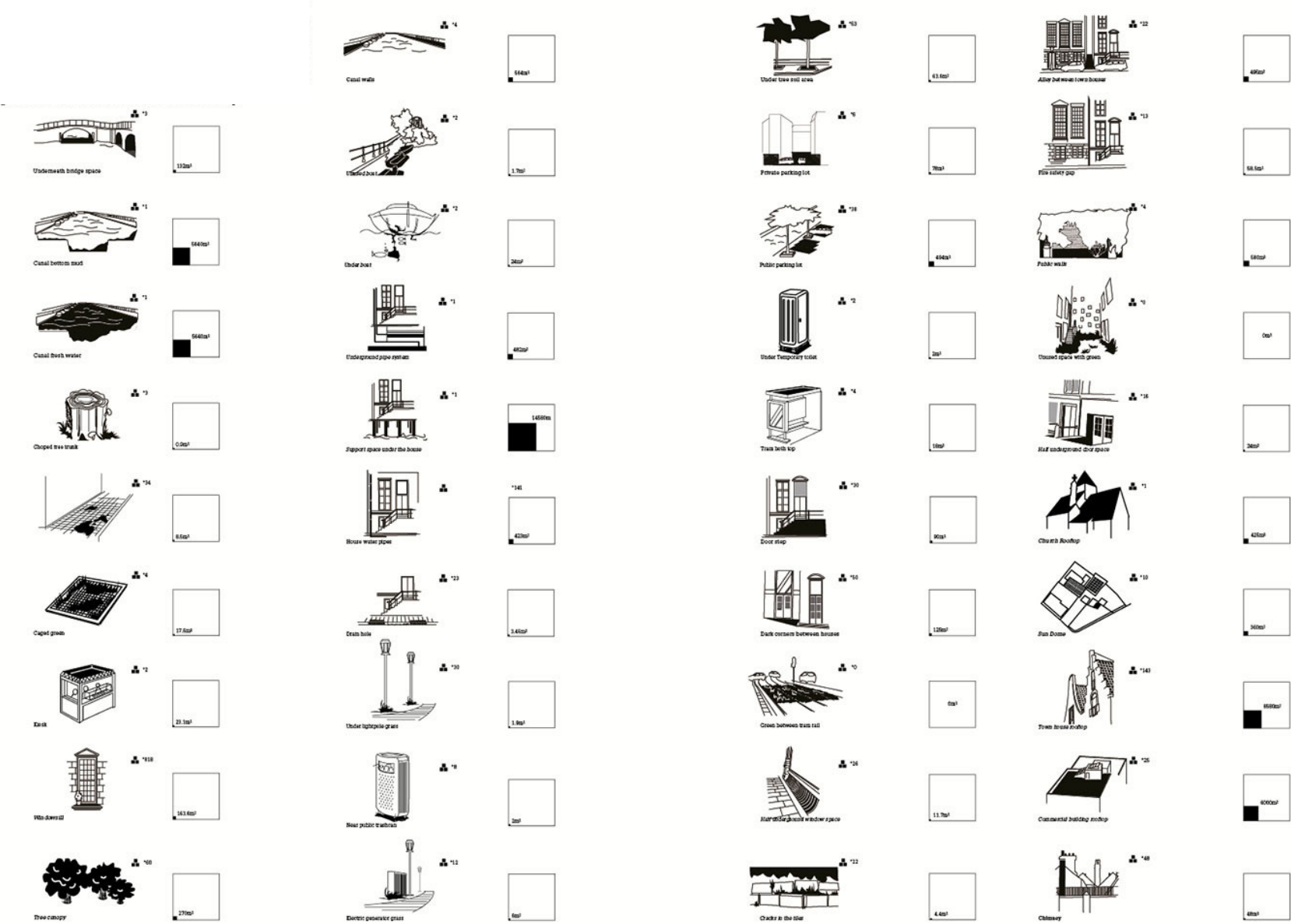
- Erik Revellé and Giovanni Bellotti for TU Delft.
- An academic investigation of “nature” in Amsterdam (Netherlands).
- Felt studies and mapping of nature in three specific sites.
- Nature defined, as something we’re trying to control and set ourselves from in an urban context.



1245-ERI-AMS.NL-2011.12

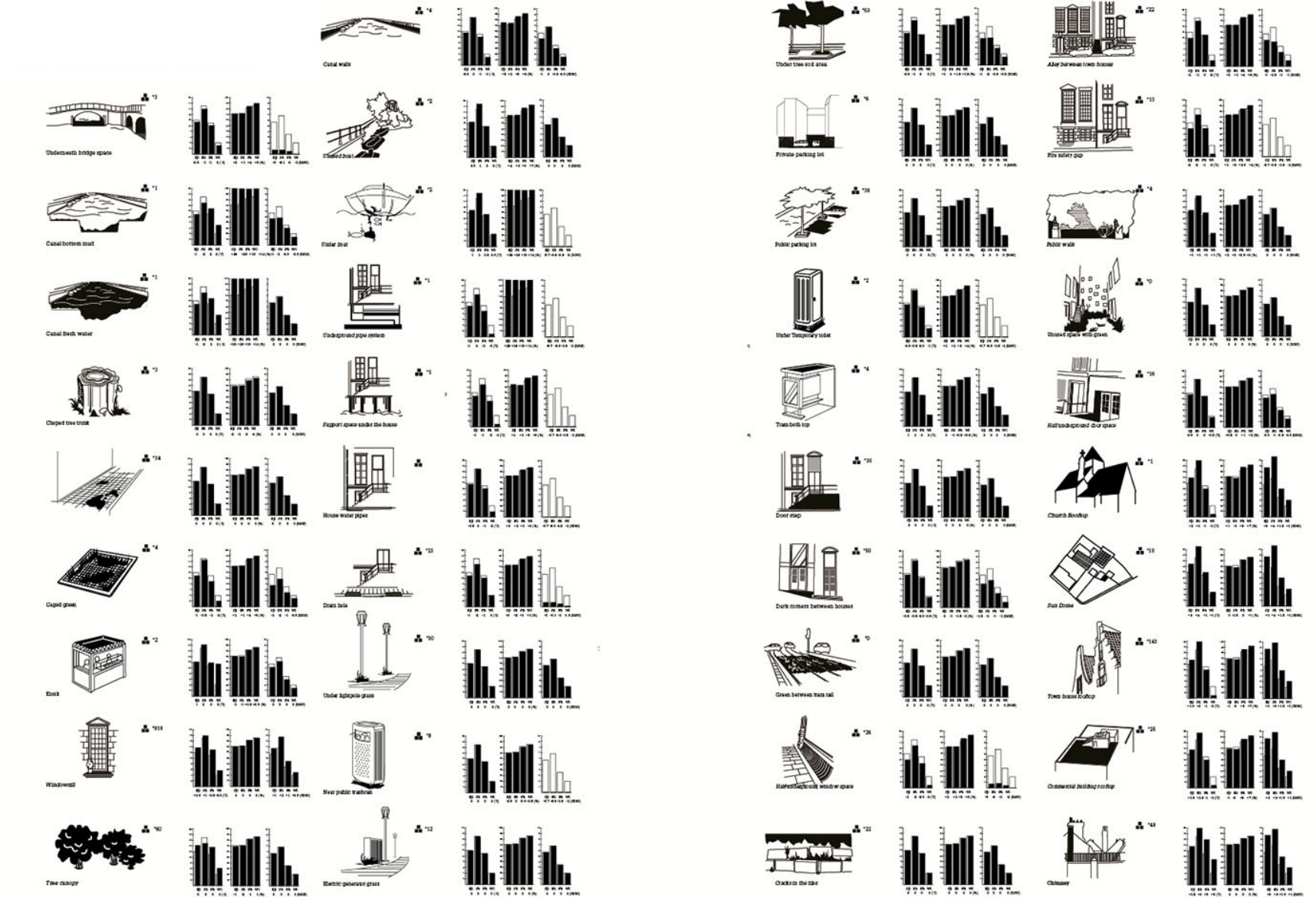
Investigations

- The unseen microcosmos



Investigations

- The unseen microcosmos
- Microclimates

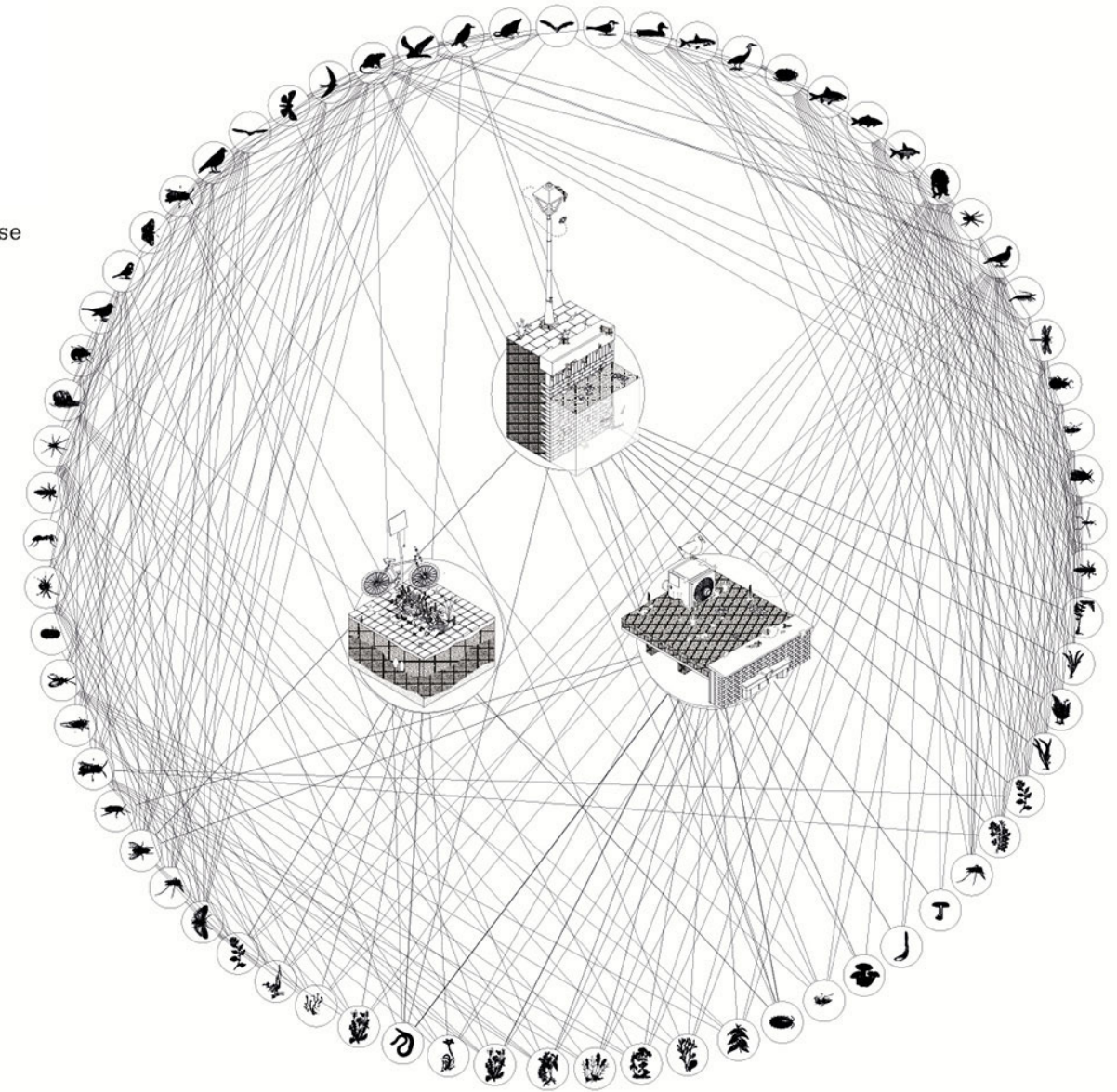


Investigations

- The unseen microcosmos
- Microclimates
- Relations

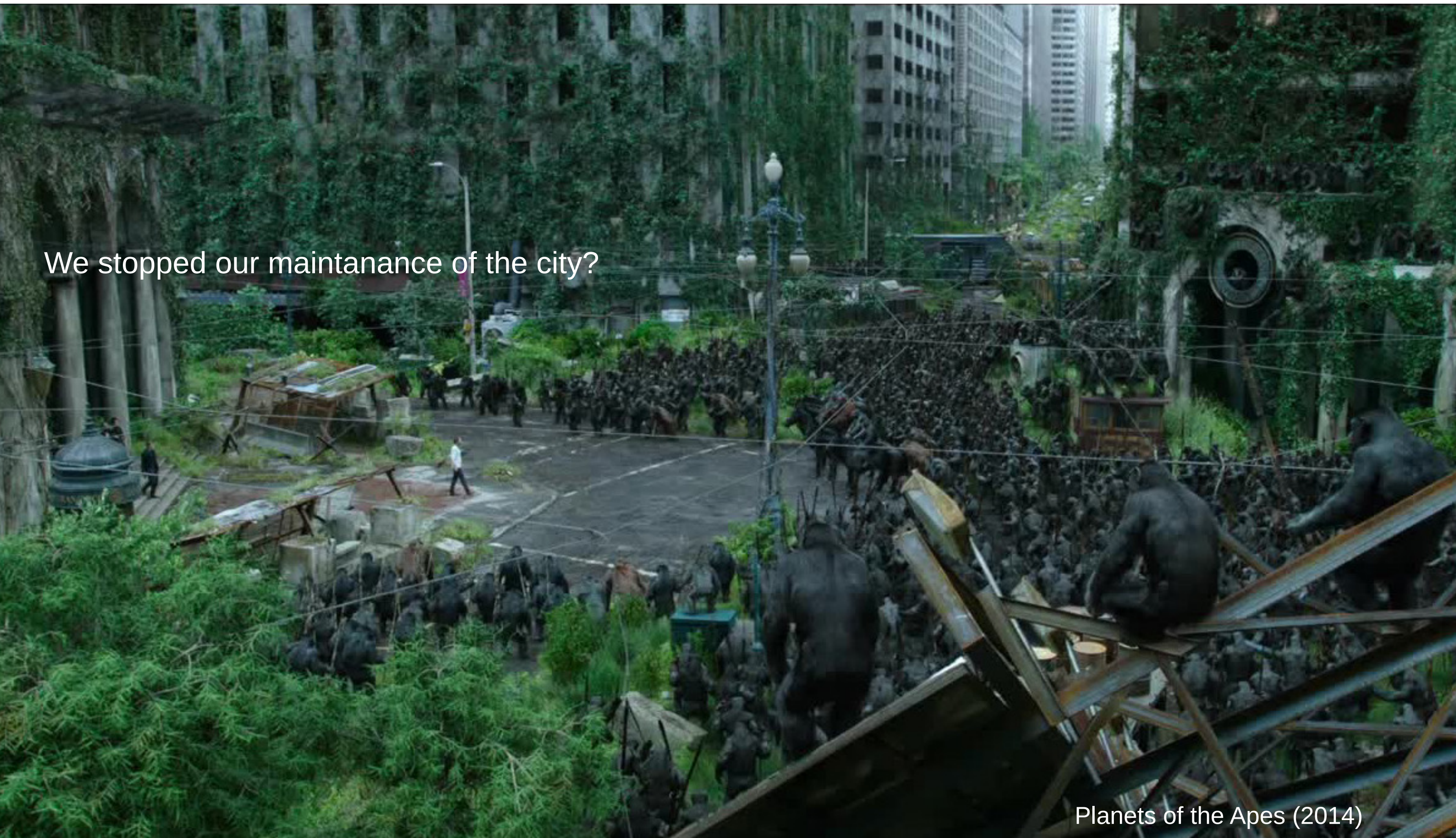
The list below, starting at 00:00 going clockwise shows the species involved.

<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	<i>Parietaria officinalis</i>
<i>Sterna hirundo</i>	<i>Plodia interpunctella</i>
<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<i>Culex pipiens molestus</i>
<i>Abramis bjoerkna</i>	<i>Musca domestica</i>
<i>Ardea cinerea</i>	<i>Blatta orientalis</i>
<i>Dytiscus marginalis</i>	<i>Vespula vulgaris</i>
<i>Osmerus eperlanus</i>	<i>Uroleucon jaceae</i>
<i>Cyprinus carpio</i>	<i>Chrysopa carnea</i>
<i>Rutilus rutilus</i>	<i>Stegobium paniceum</i>
<i>Sciurus vulgaris</i>	<i>Araneus diadematus</i>
<i>Argyroneta aquatica</i>	<i>Tetramorium caespitum</i>
<i>Columba palumbus</i>	<i>Plodia interpunctella</i>
<i>Crangon crangon</i>	<i>Tegenaria domestica</i>
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	<i>Helix pomatia</i>
<i>Otiorhynchus sulcatus</i>	<i>Coccinella magnifica</i>
<i>Gerris lacustris</i>	<i>Turdus merula</i>
<i>Inachis io larvae</i>	<i>Pipistrellus nathusii</i>
<i>Cystopteris fragilis</i>	<i>Autographa gamma</i>
<i>Asplenium viride</i>	<i>Apus apus</i>
<i>Gymnocarpium robertianum</i>	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>
<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	<i>Corvus monedula</i>
<i>Pseudofumaria lutea</i>	<i>Sorex minutus</i>
<i>Culex pipiens pipiens</i>	
<i>Cortinarius flexipes</i>	
<i>Cordyceps militaris</i>	
<i>Boletus edulis</i>	
<i>Aelia acuminata</i>	
<i>Porcellio scaber</i>	
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	
<i>Lactuca virosa</i>	
<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	
<i>Poa compressa</i>	
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	
<i>Taraxum officinale</i>	
<i>Sedum rupestre</i>	
<i>Lumbricus terrestris</i>	
<i>Poa annua</i>	
<i>Sedum acre</i>	
<i>Orobancha hederarum</i>	



WHAT IF?

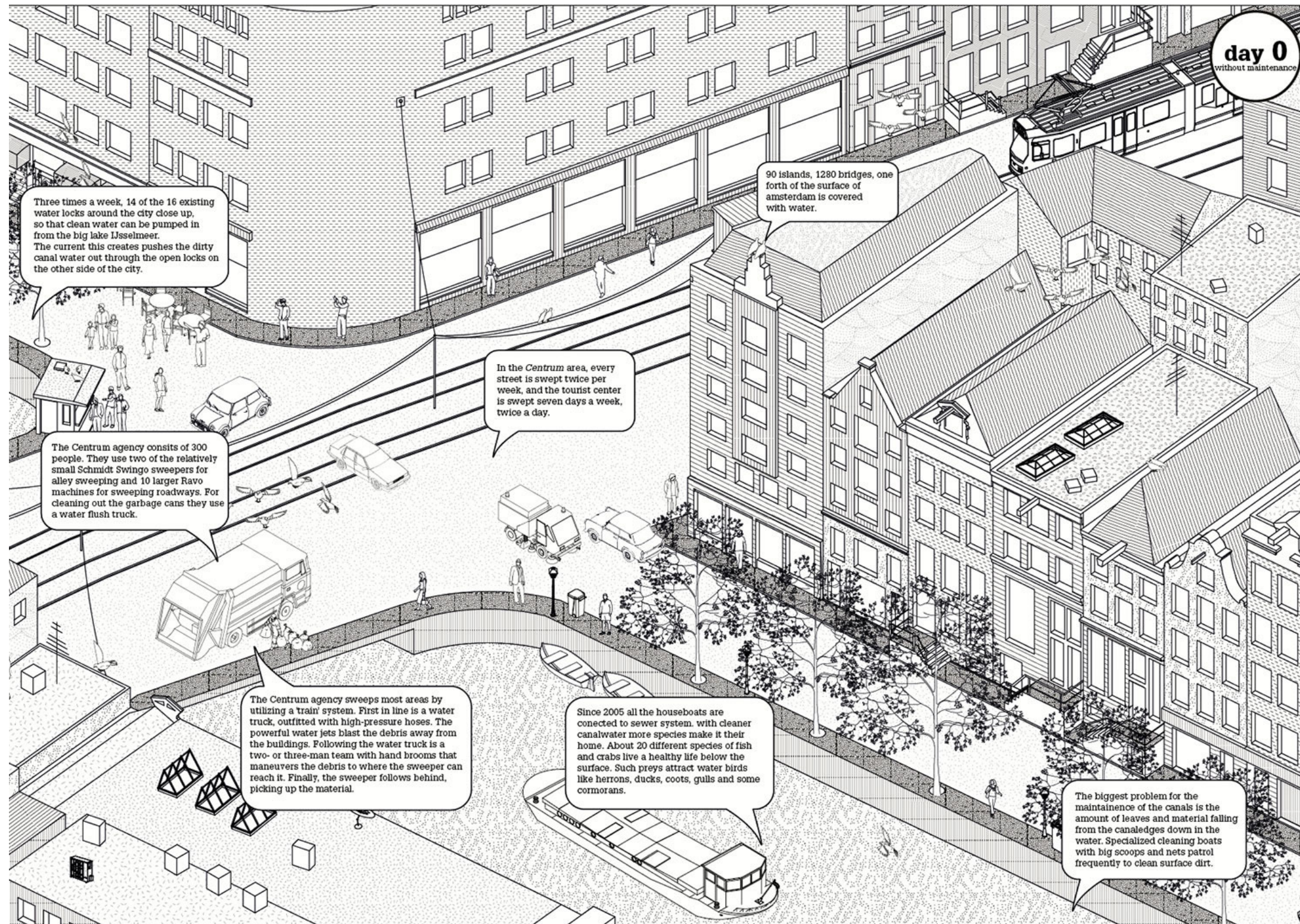
We stopped our maintenance of the city?

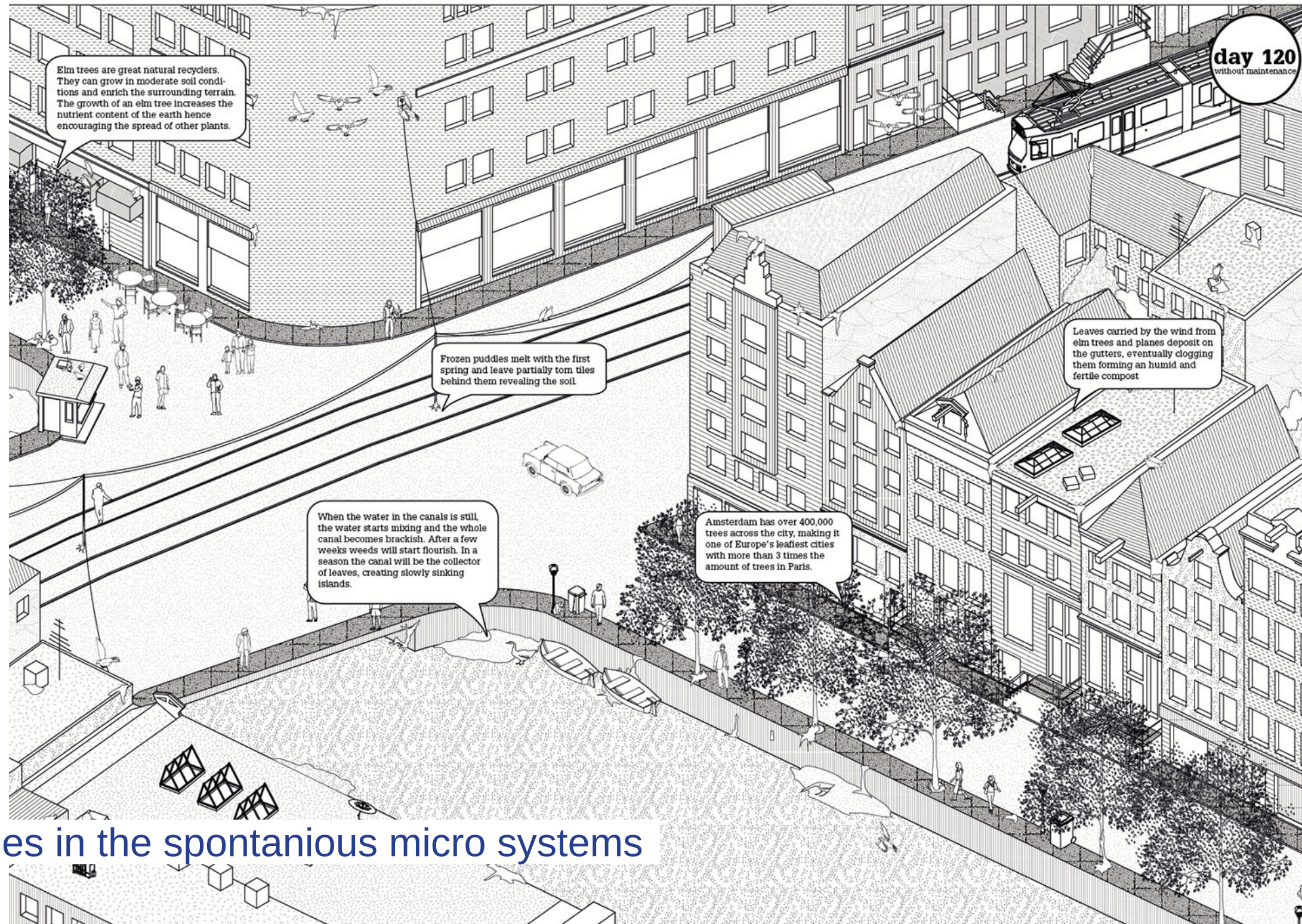


Planets of the Apes (2014)

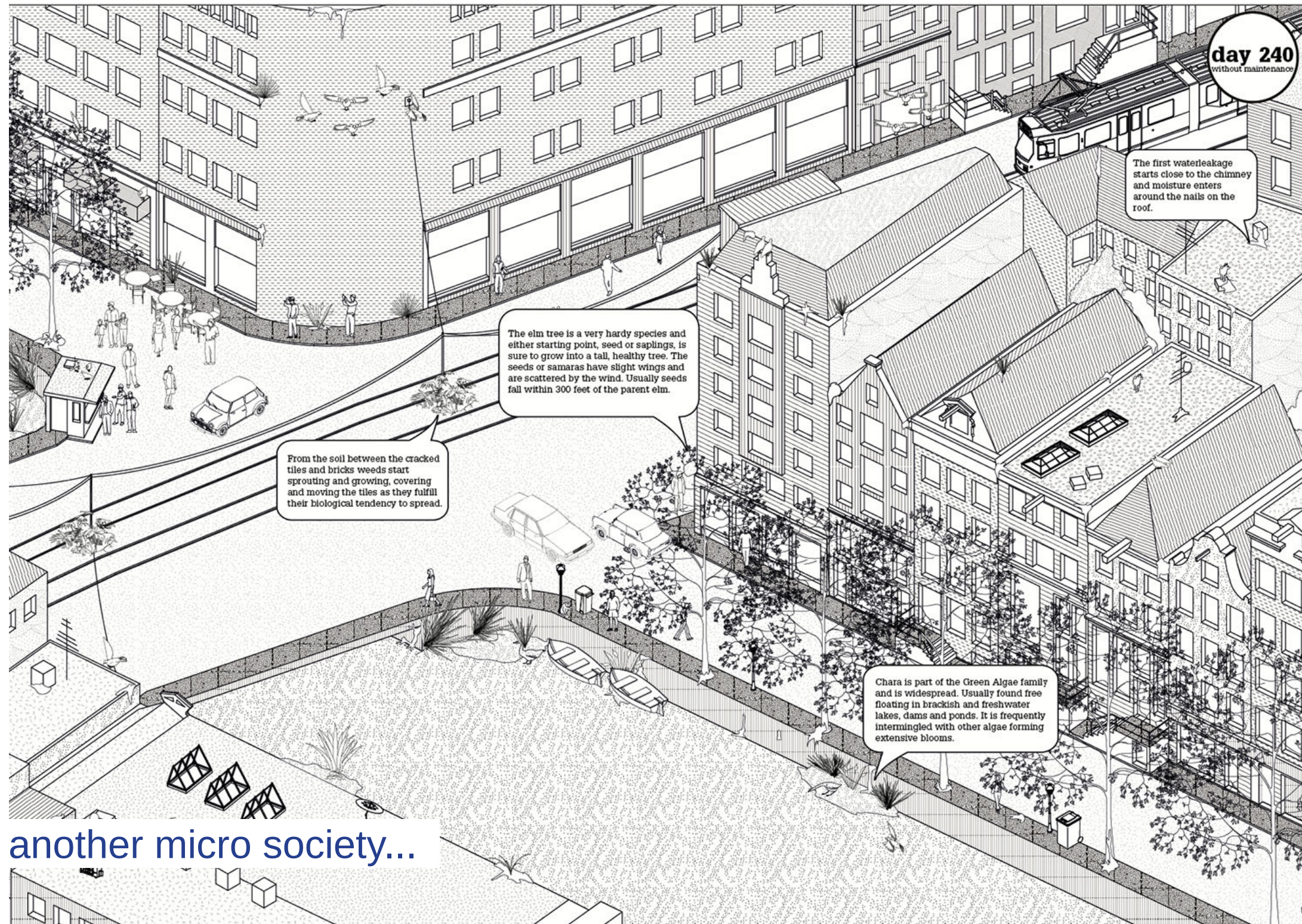
Realistically...



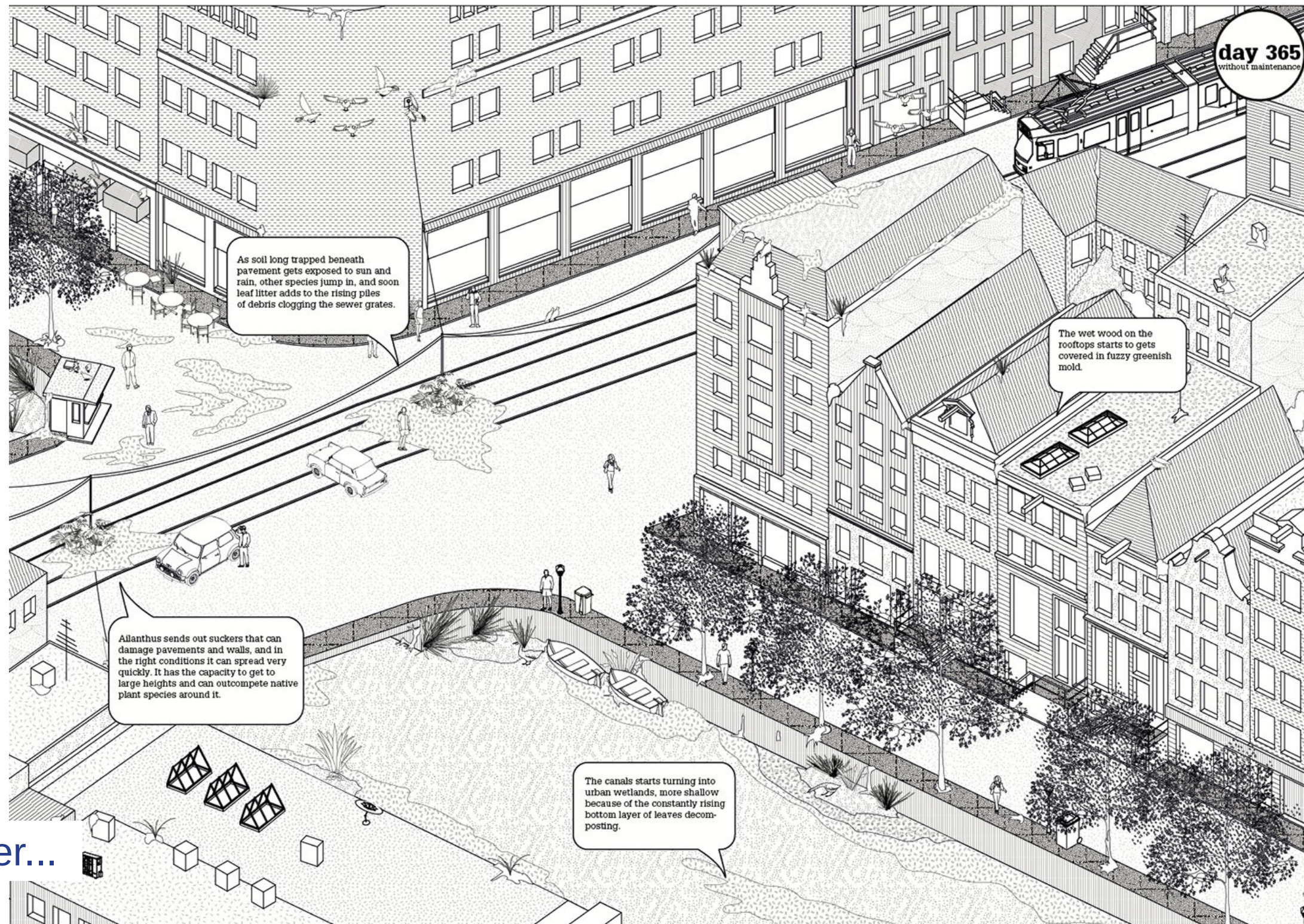




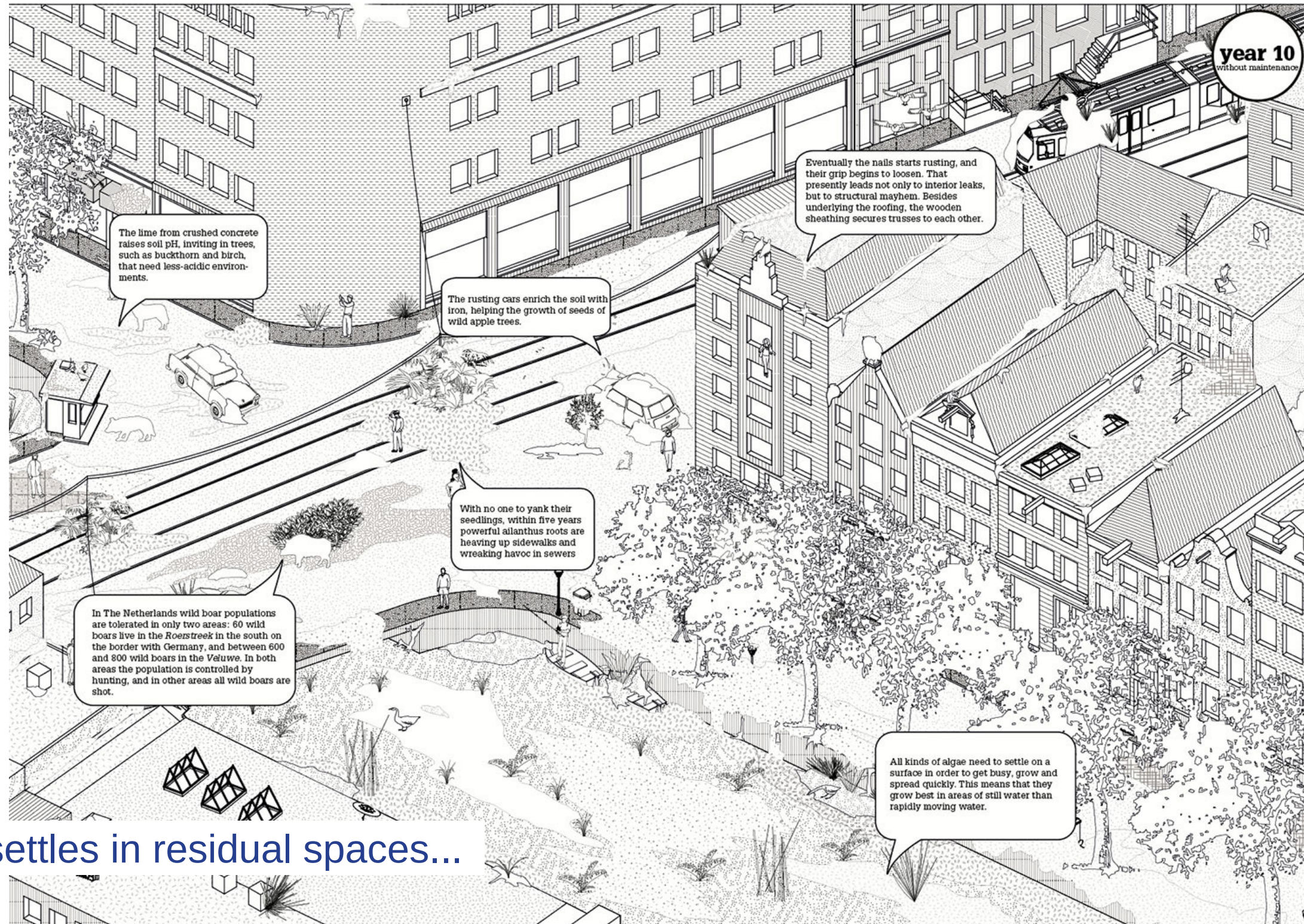
The wild settles in the spontaneous micro systems



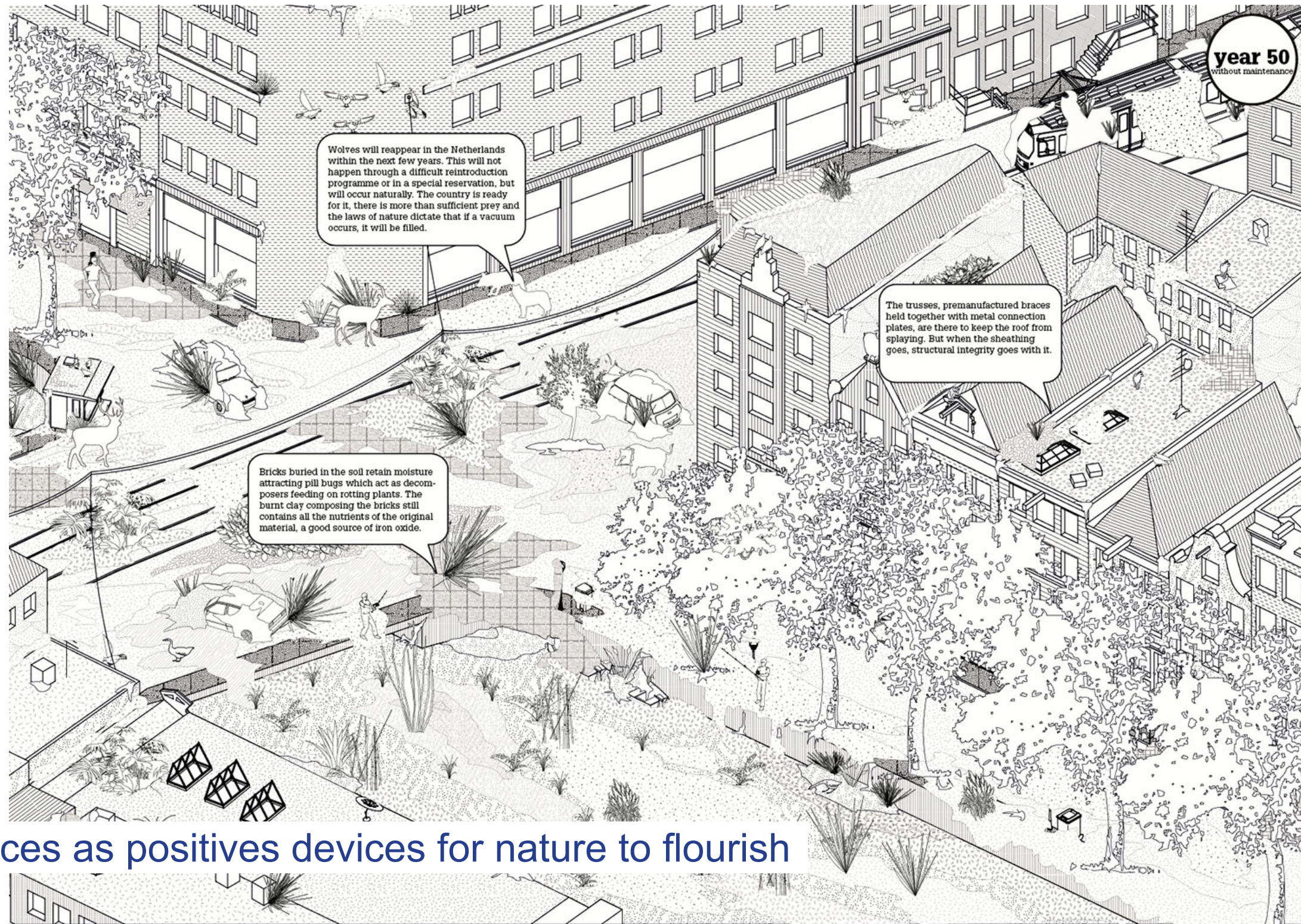
A catalyst for another micro society...



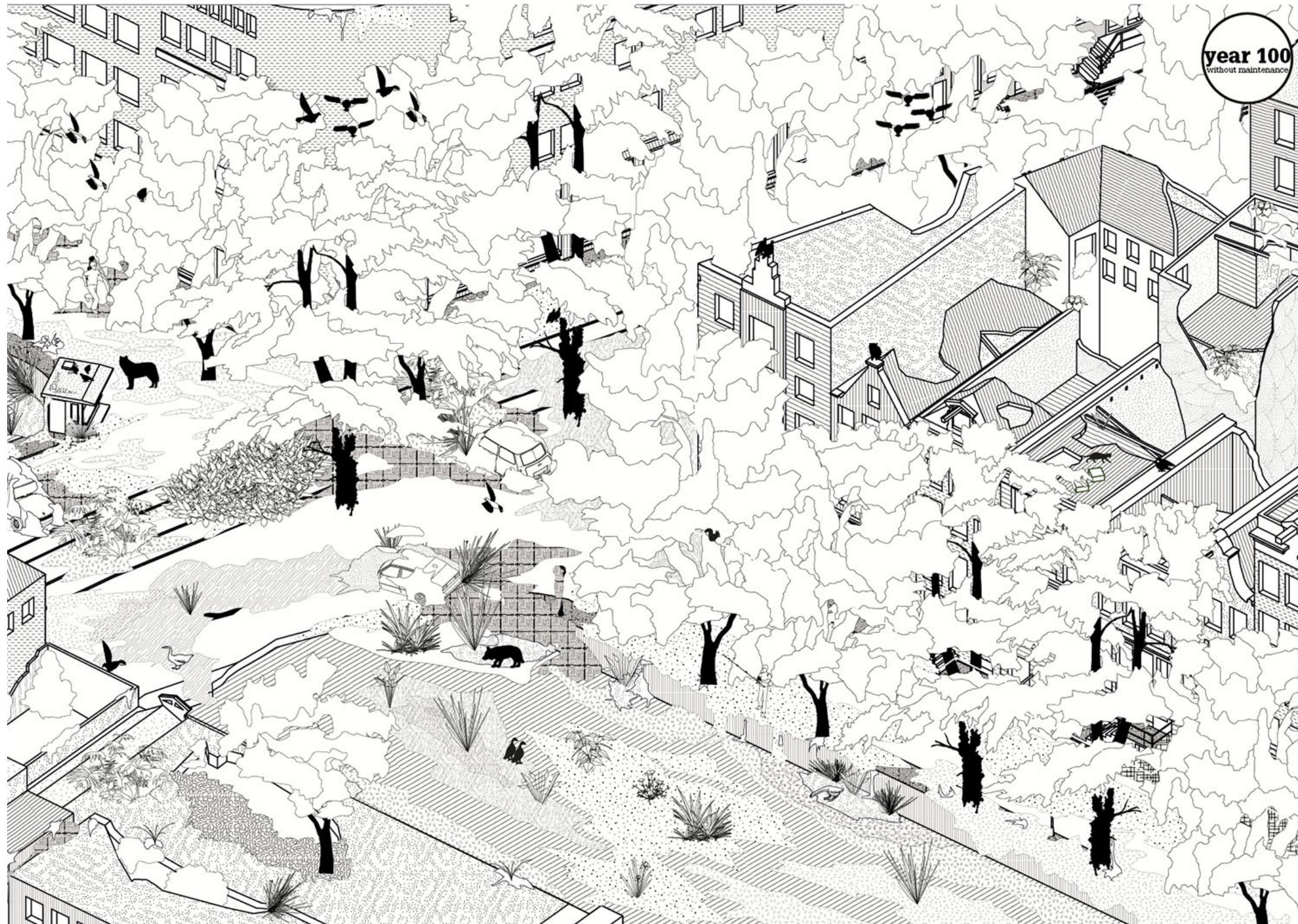
... and another...



Subnatures settles in residual spaces...



Residual spaces as positives devices for nature to flourish



Until...

Refelctions

- Is nature broken or have we altered it?
- Wildness vs. wilderness
- The world (nature) will continue without us.
- Understanding of nature IN and OUTSIDE of an urban context.
- Understanding of nature on a PLANETARY and MICROCOSMOS level.



Landgrab City

SLAB Architecture PLLC

2009

Installation - Shenzhen

Lotus 149

Editoriale Lotus (international)

- Architectural magazine
- Events, research, projects, essays
- Reference catalogue
- Lotus 149 - Lotus in the Field

Lotus

Ideas for
Regeneration

Lotus

Architecture:
What Remains

Lotus

Architecture
and Biophilia

Lotus

People: Architecture

Lotus

In Response
to Disasters

Lotus

The New, Again

Lotus

Borders

Lotus

Entr'acte

Lotus

Entertainment Districts

Lotus

Politics of the Campus

Lotus

Manufactured
Altered Landscape

Ideas for Regeneration Lotus 174 (2022)

The research for this issue has focused on the contribution of the architectural discipline itself to the environmental regeneration of the city and of housing. Naturally it is not so easy to find among the resources of architecture the contents needed to inspire a process of regeneration. Without excluding other forms of reclamation of the environment, what architecture can show us with...

Learn more

173 - Architecture: What Remains

172 - Architecture and Biophilia

171 - People: Architecture

170 - In Response to Disasters

169 - The New, Again

168 - Borders

167 - Entr'acte

166 - Entertainment Districts

165 - Politics of the Campus

164 - Manufactured Altered Landscape

search

type author surname

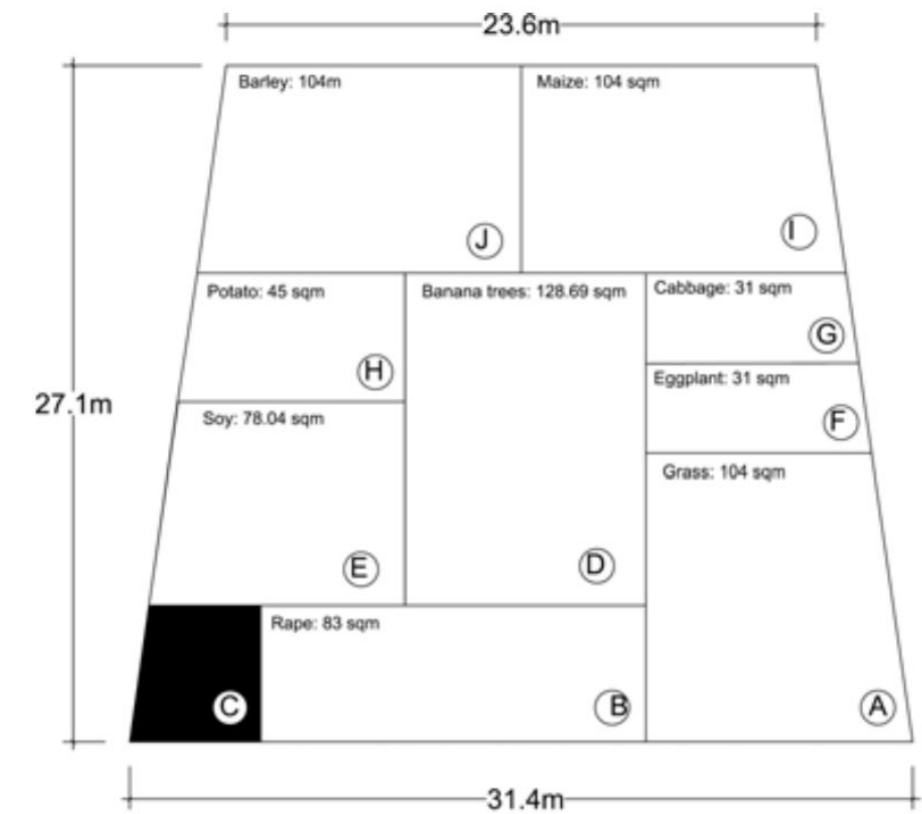
type topic

search

cart

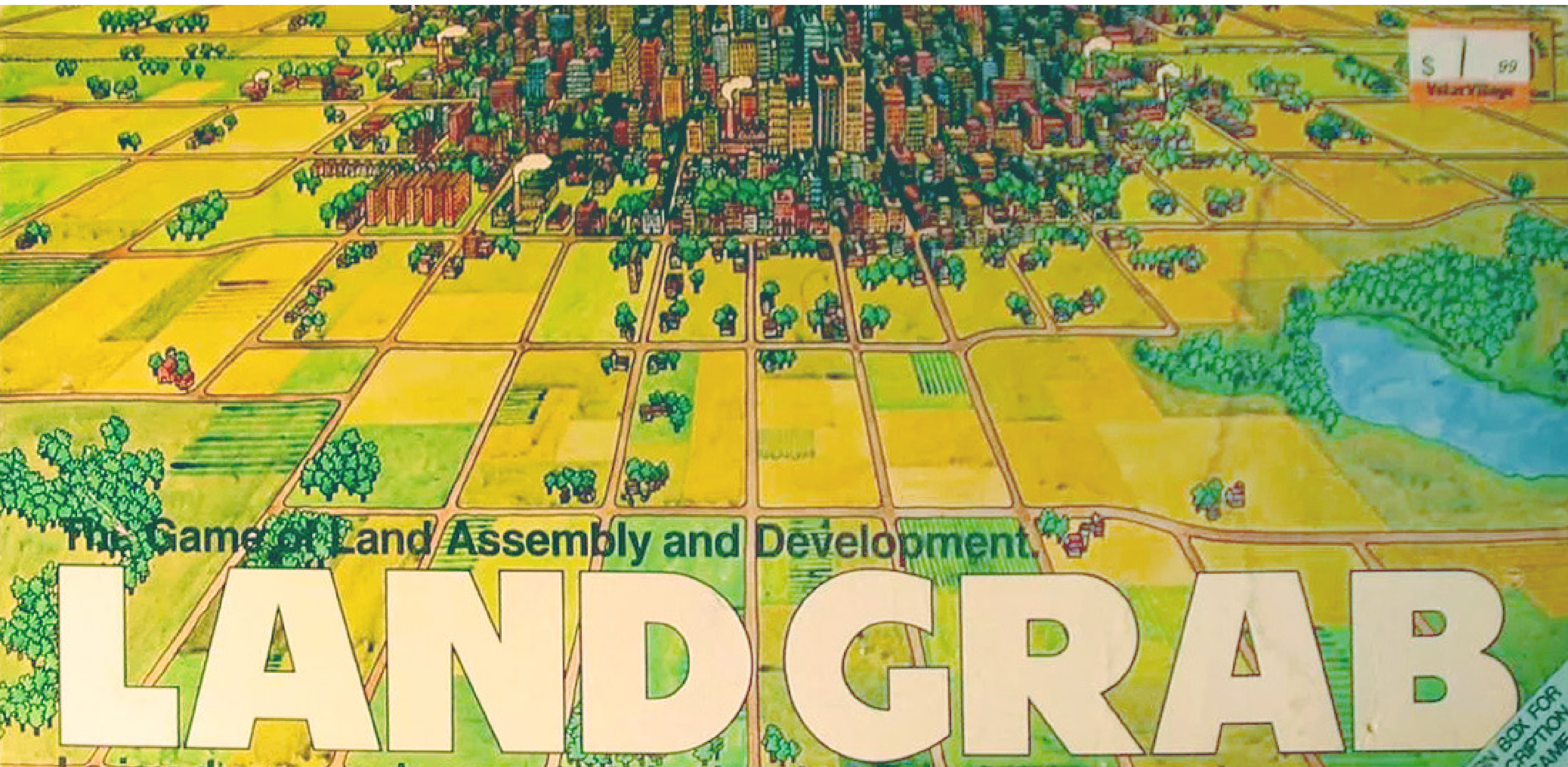
your cart is empty

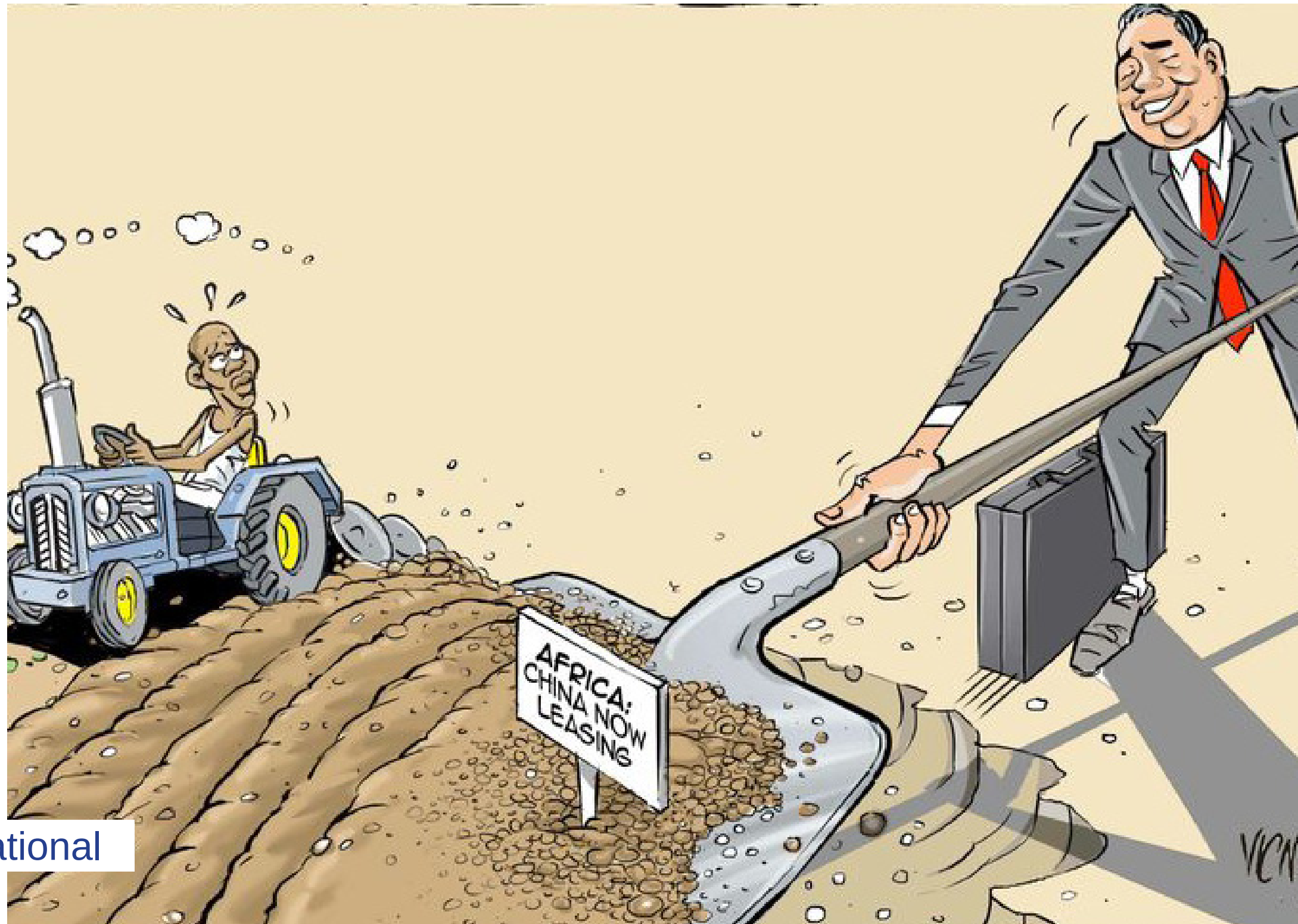
- Joseph Grima, Jeffrey Johnson & José Esparza,
- Shenzhen & Hong Kong Biennale of Architecture/Urbanism
- Showcasing a map of the city and crops to scale



- Food groups: Vegetables, fruit, cereals, pasture for live-stock etc.
- Engagement, food origin and mass
- Cultivating land







Going international

Refelctions

- What impact do landgrab have scale? (Policies, selection, production)
- The connection between post-colonisation and landgrabbing.
- Urbanism looking beyond the limit of the city boundary.



Not a Cornfield

Lauren Bon & Metabolic Studio

2005-06

Curation of site - Los Angeles

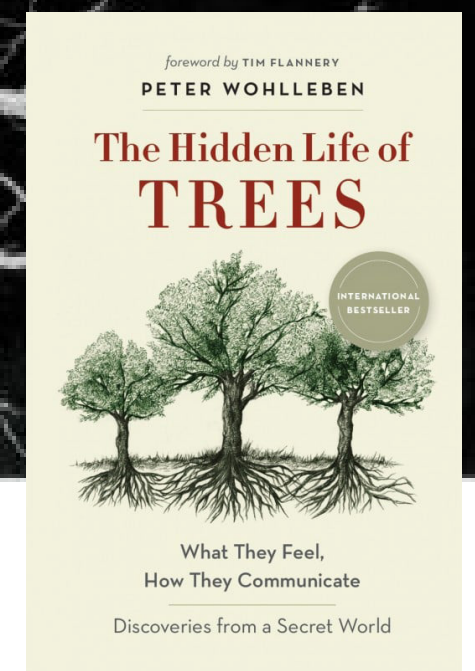
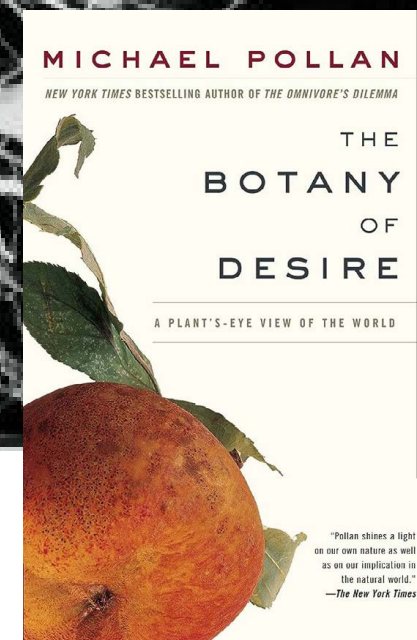
- A historical site, soon to be a redeveloped
- Recognition of Native Americans (Tongva people) + practice
- Reference to Agnes Denes' 'Wheatfield'?



Moving on...

- How can food (systems, selection) help connect the urban to 'nature'?
- Development of cities alongside nature (food)?
- Investigation of nature (systems/microcosmos) in/outside the urban context.
- Mapping of an extreme/systems/relation.

Focusing on the extreme, one can understand conditions that prevail in less extreme forms.
- Diana Agrest



understanding the environment through verbs rather than nouns

Indy Johar Capitol Theatre Lecture



Junya Ishigami, Freeing Architecture

understanding the environment through verbs rather than nouns

“the mountain is flowing”

we deeply feel these things
we feel the violence in our world

we create landscapes of care with
our language



Joseph Grima, Non-Extractive Architecture

understanding the city through verbs rather than nouns

Indy Johar Capitol Theatre Lecture

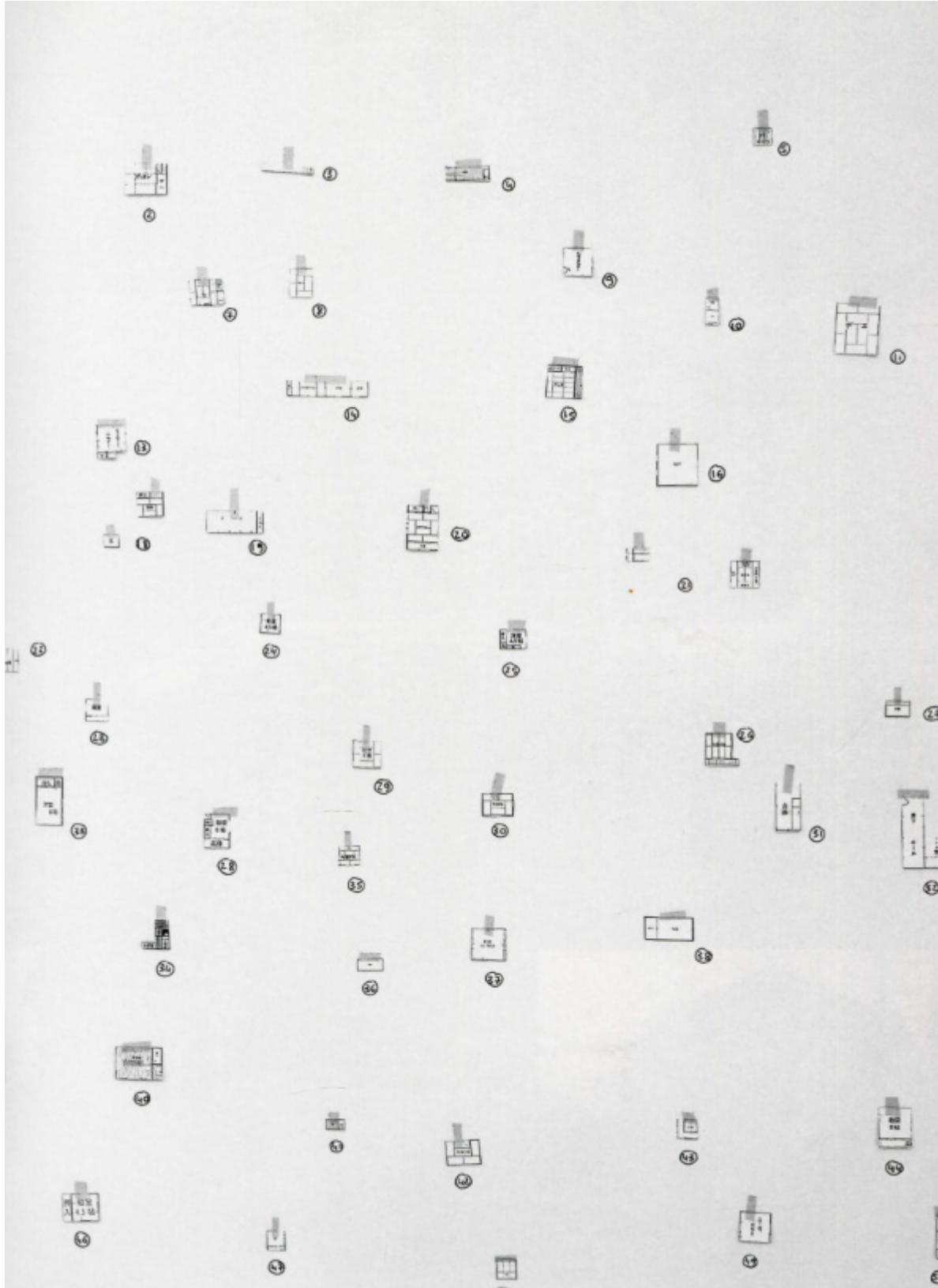


Bunduk Alderton House, Glenn Murcutt

“I can sleep by the fire but at the same time look out into the blue mountains landscape and I can see the birds and the animals and I can smell the flowers, and I can see the plants, and when I move down the passage way and return I am looking out onto the landscape. And that is really important.”

Quote from Banduk Marika, Aboriginal god-daughter of Glenn Murcutt. In interview with Richard Black

The philosophy of property



Junya Ishigami, Freeing Architecture

Fundamentally, we need to understand the philosophy of property.

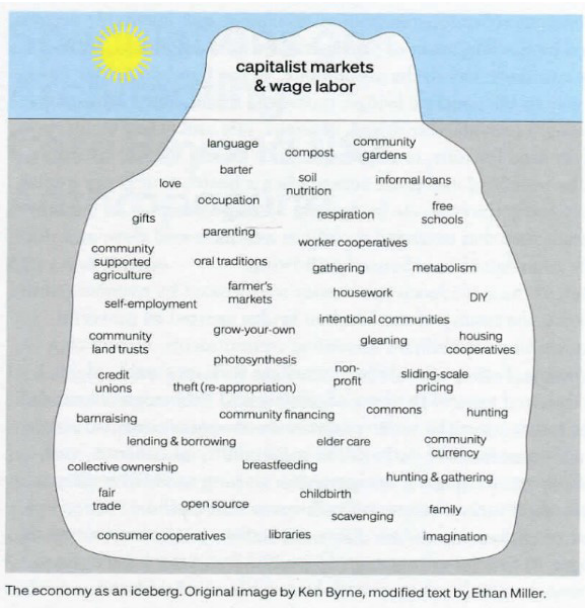
Ownership

Dematerialising our economy from tangible goods to intangible goods

-ings



Ethan Miller, The economy of an iceberg



Value Iceberg

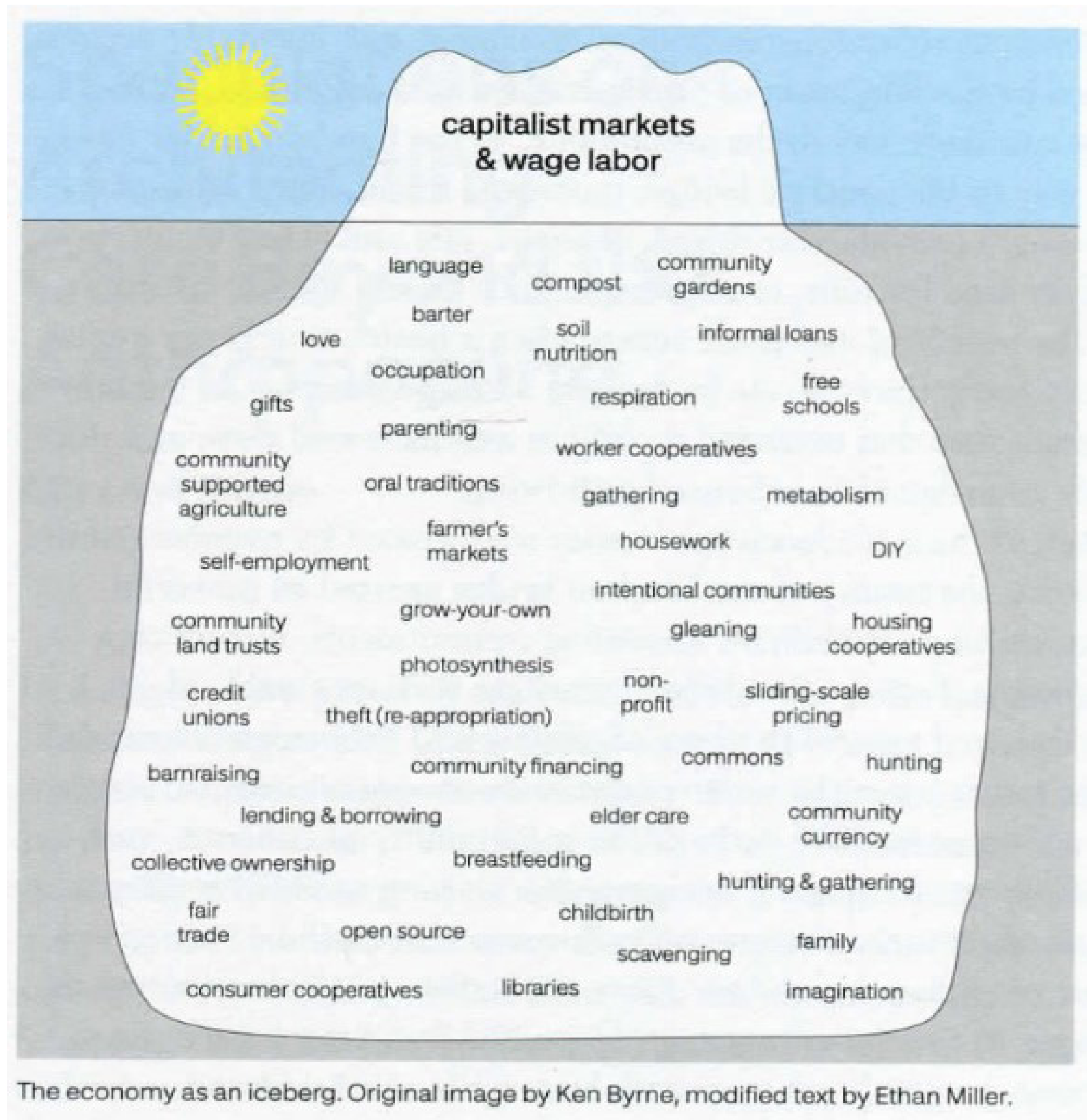
Stewardship

Value Systems

Care
Creative skill
Language

Maria Muzzuchelli, The value of Everything

Time --- Stewardship



stewardship instead of ownership



Overgrazed land



Joseph Grima, Non-Extractive Architecture

“the apple is deeply regenerative if managed properly”

ownership gives us the ability to destroy

caring as a function of learning

“...so that the entire city would be treated with the care of the allotment garden.”

Mauro Baracco & Louise Wright, Repair Venice Biennale



Caretaker Kendra Tellervo Reid in the Australian Pavilion. Photo: Andrea Penisto

Time --- Stewardship



Hartford Wash: Washing, Tracks, Maintenance: Outside, 1973
From the performance series **Maintenance Art**, 1973-74

Mierle Laderman Ukeles, Repair

returning to childhood play,
“making nothing, but simply finding what’s there”
...borrowing

Junya Ishigami, Freeing Architecture



sgui-

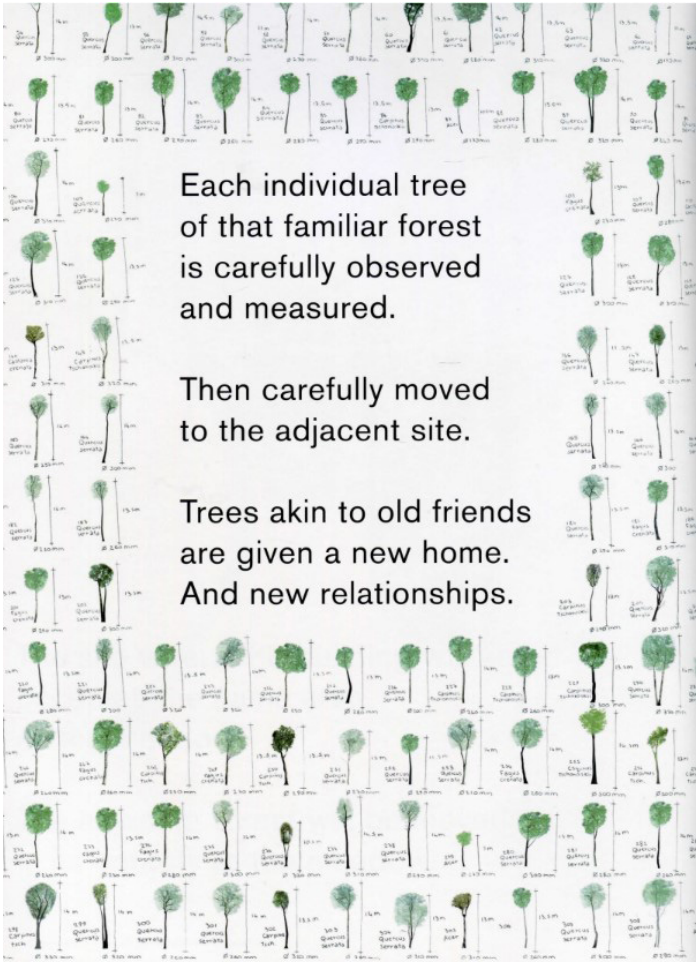
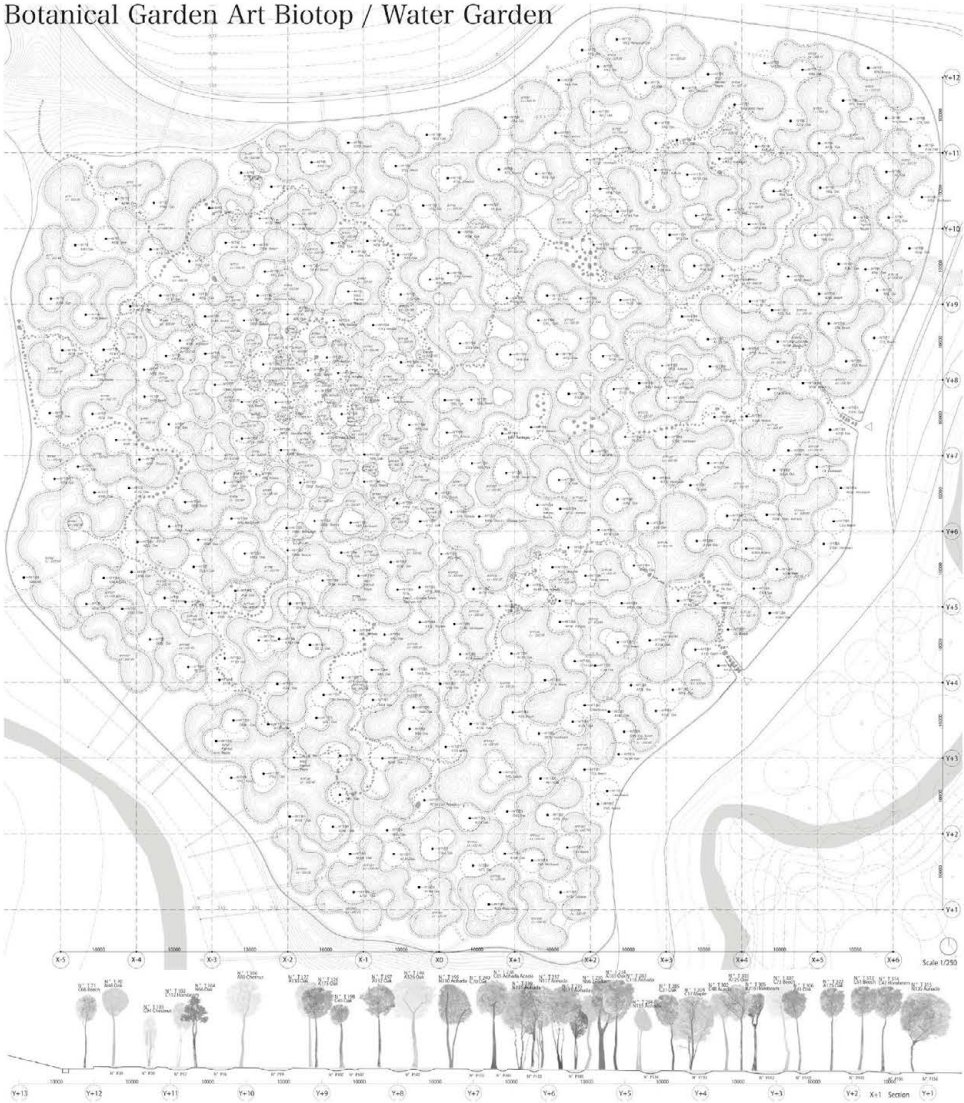
Junya Ishigami, Biotop Water Garden



accounting for value



Junya Ishigami, Biotop Water Garden



Each individual tree of that familiar forest is carefully observed and measured.

Then carefully moved to the adjacent site.

Trees akin to old friends are given a new home. And new relationships.



“we can draw a tree, but we can’t account for it”

Indy Johar, RMIT Capitol Lecture

The allotment garden

the allotment garden as an analogy for a form of stewardship

renting land
cultivation

When a park with meadows and trees is placed in a built environment, it has a similar, if unspoken, function. It suggests a kind of habitat that supposedly offers better conditions than the surrounding area. A second kind of nature is constructed to act as a protective area in a “hostile” structure. The myth of our own living space being a natural landscape is thus preserved in a very special way in places where we have created our own habitat. This applies equally to the city, the workplace and to the dwelling: natural plants are intended to “humanize” what people have created.

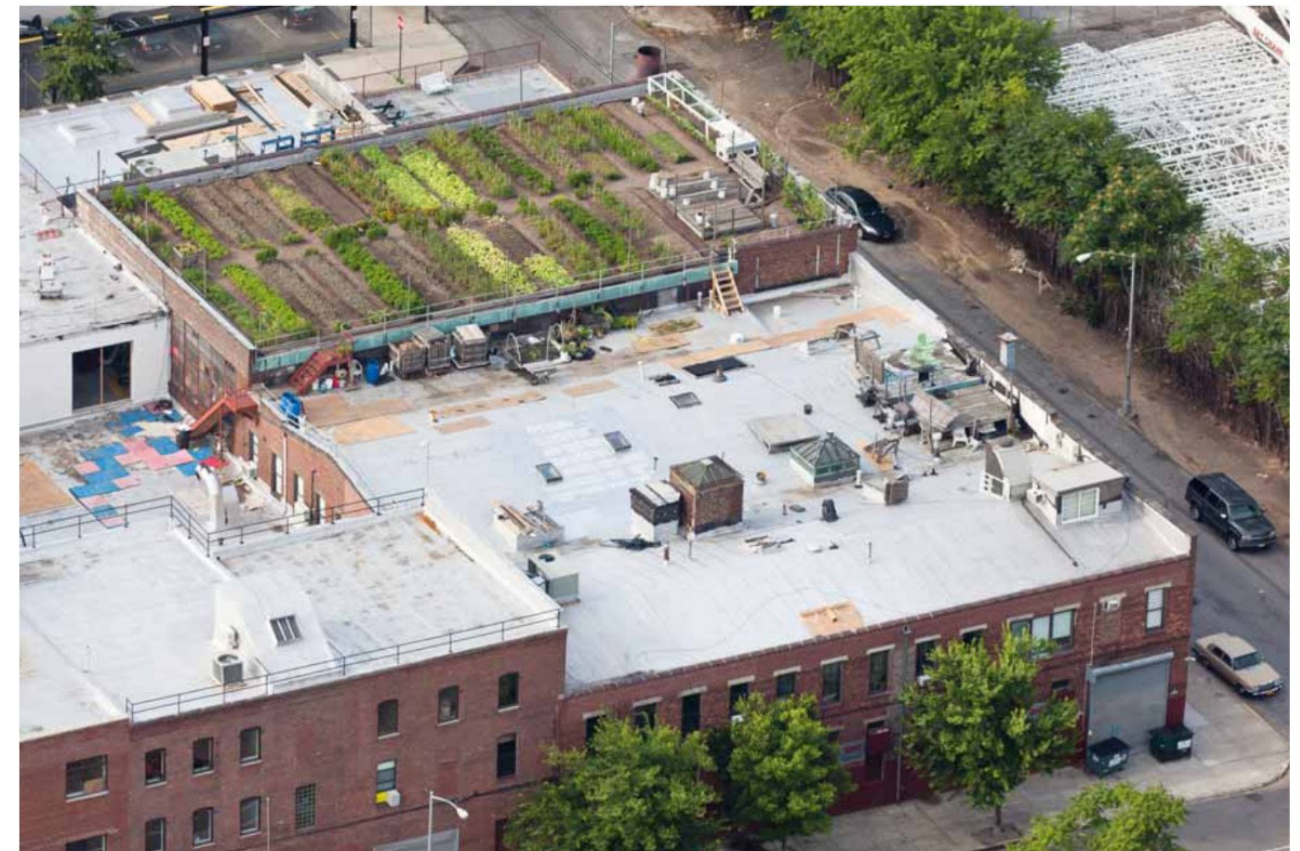
Haus Rucker, Constructing a second nature



Alex MacLean, Worcester Street Community Garden, Boston

Worcester Street Community Garden dispone di oltre 100 orti per i residenti di South End ed è gestito da volontari

Worcester Street Community Garden with over a 100 garden plots available to residents of Boston's South End and run by volunteers



Alex MacLean, Eagle Street Rooftop Farm, New York

Eagle Street Rooftop Farm è un tetto giardino di oltre 550 metri quadrati a Greenpoint, Brooklyn

Eagle Street Rooftop Farm is a 6,000 square foot garden in Greenpoint, Brooklyn

Open source furniture

borrowing instead of owning

examples



Lean Desk
Large 4 seat workstation



Studio Desk
Compact single person desk



Linnea Bookshelf
Elegant shelving by 57st. Design



Bundle Desk
The portable trestle table



Divide
Multifunctional space dividers



Johann Stool
Versatile meeting/ canteen stool

open source furniture, Dark matter Labs

Transparency, Flexibility, Agility, Scalability

Window Futures

The window reconciles the original violation of the wall.

The window excludes the inside and the window excludes the outside.

The window is a legal limit that tempts the uninvited.

The window is an apparatus that conspires with other machines to homogenize weather.

The window resists horizontal load and breeds dust.

The window is a section cut through light on which opposing elevations are projected.

The window is a solid whose penetration leads out of all reference to place and time.

The window is the moment when vanishing point and vantage point converge.

The window is a slow liquid, a “delay in glass.”

Diller Scofidio, The window on the garden

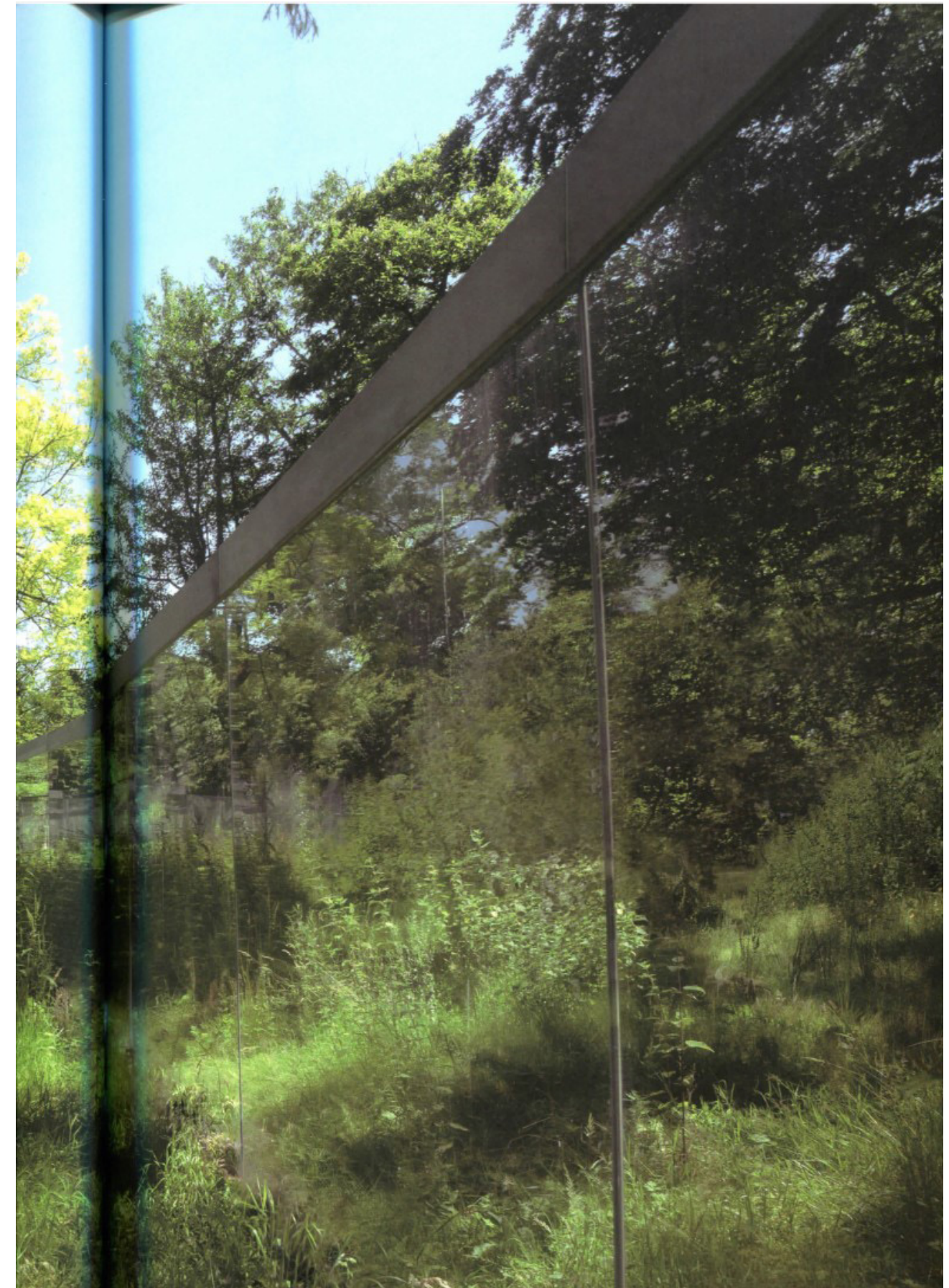
Window Futures

exchange between inside and outside

Anyway, for the aboriginal person the importance is that as you move around a building you have landscape to every aspect and the reason is – it's important to see the horizon. To see the horizon for example...the seascape... you see what animals are moving through the landscape in the water so where the whales are coming through or the dolphins.

Glenn Murcutt Interview with Richard Black and Anna Johnson

examples



Junya Ishigami, Freeing Architecture

“I can sleep by the fire but at the same time look out into the blue mountains landscape and I can see the birds and the animals and I can smell the flowers, and I can see the plants, and when I move down the passage way and return I am looking out onto the landscape. And that is really important.”

Quote from Banduk Marika, Aboriginal god-daughter of Glenn Murcutt



Neyran Turan

Moving beyond seeing nature as:

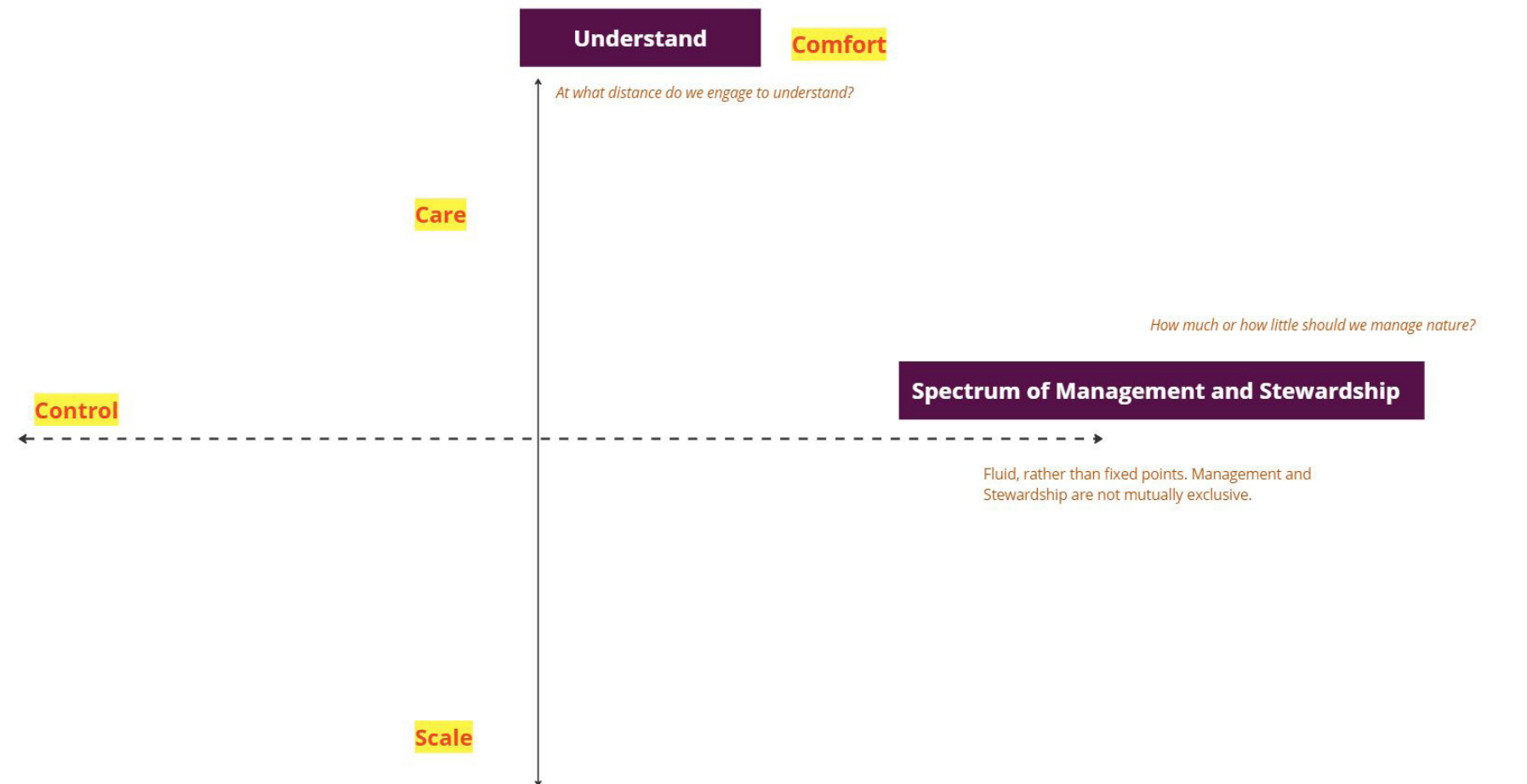
1. as something to be saved, protected, mixed with feelings
2. Managerial Tendencies
3. Seeing environment as simply earth



Y- axis

Understand

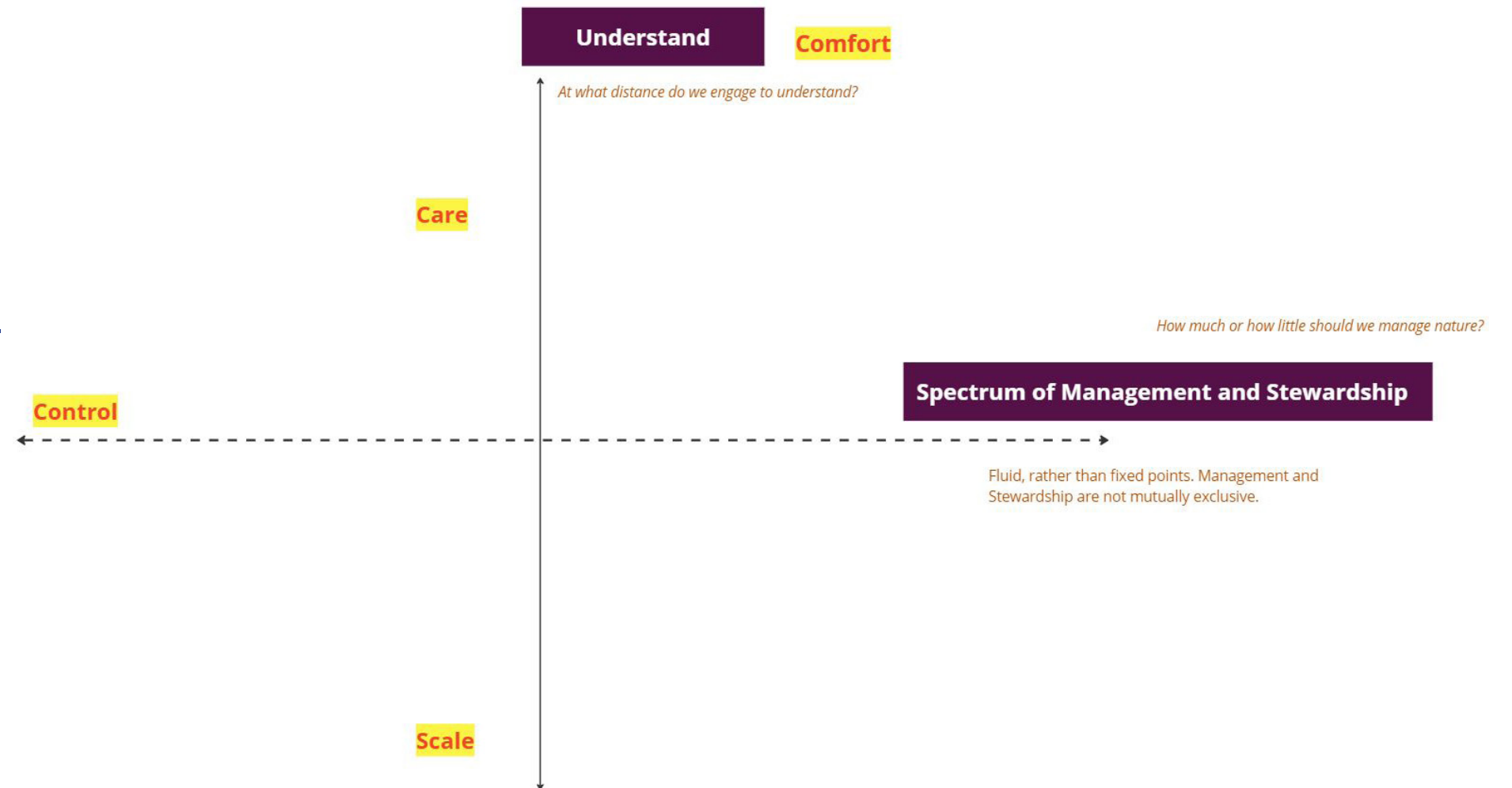
- At what distance do we engage to understand?



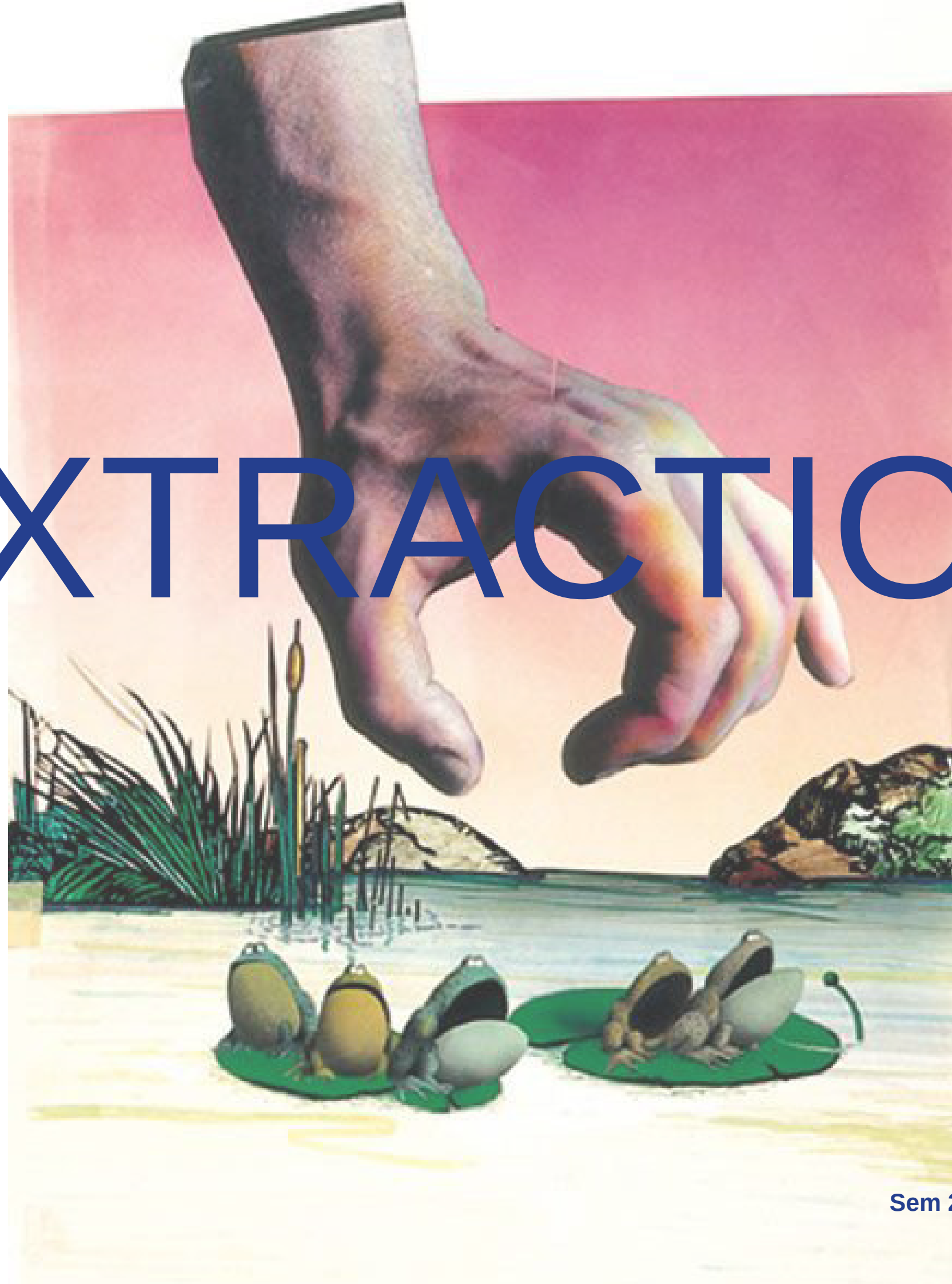
X- axis

Spectrum of Management and Stewardship

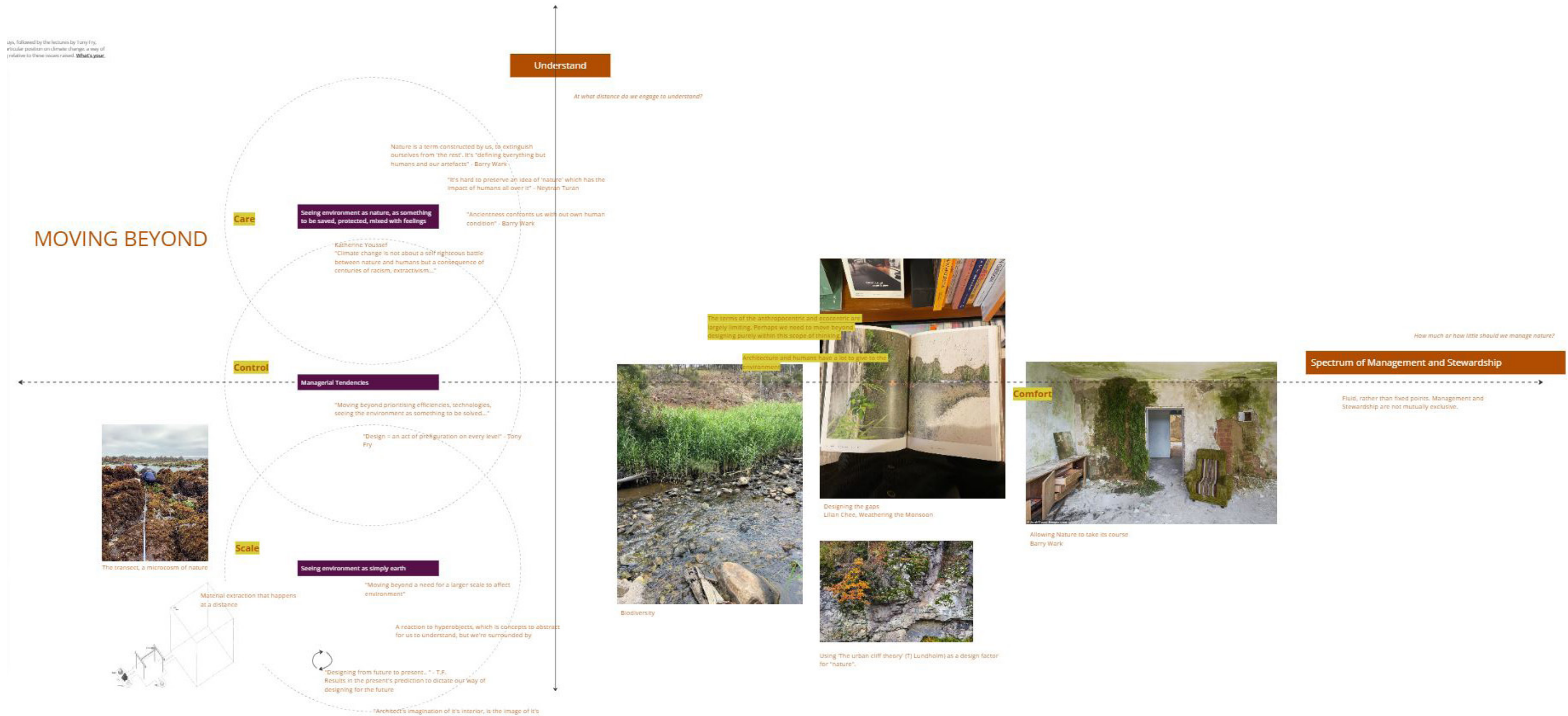
- How much or how little should we manage nature?



EXTRACTION



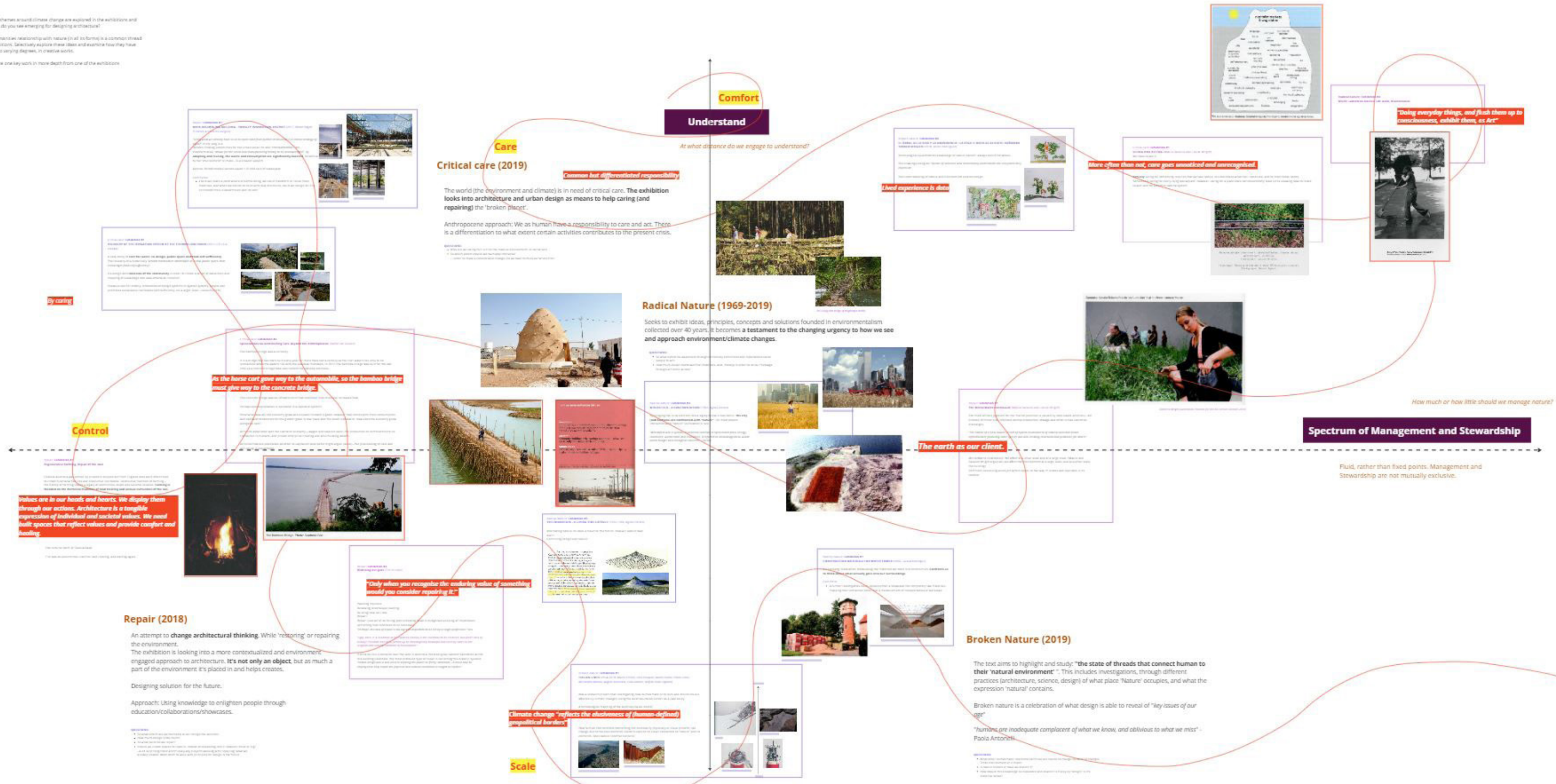
Week 1- 2, Rewilding Architecture



Week 3 - 4, Rewilding Architecture

TASK

1. What curatorial themes around climate change are explored in the exhibitions and what challenges do you see emerging for designing architecture?
2. A critique of humanities' relationship with nature (in all its forms) is a common thread across the exhibitions. Selectively explore these ideas and examine how they have been explored to varying degrees, in creative work.
3. Critically examine one key work in more depth from one of the exhibitions.



Highlight

- Transect sampling as a methodology

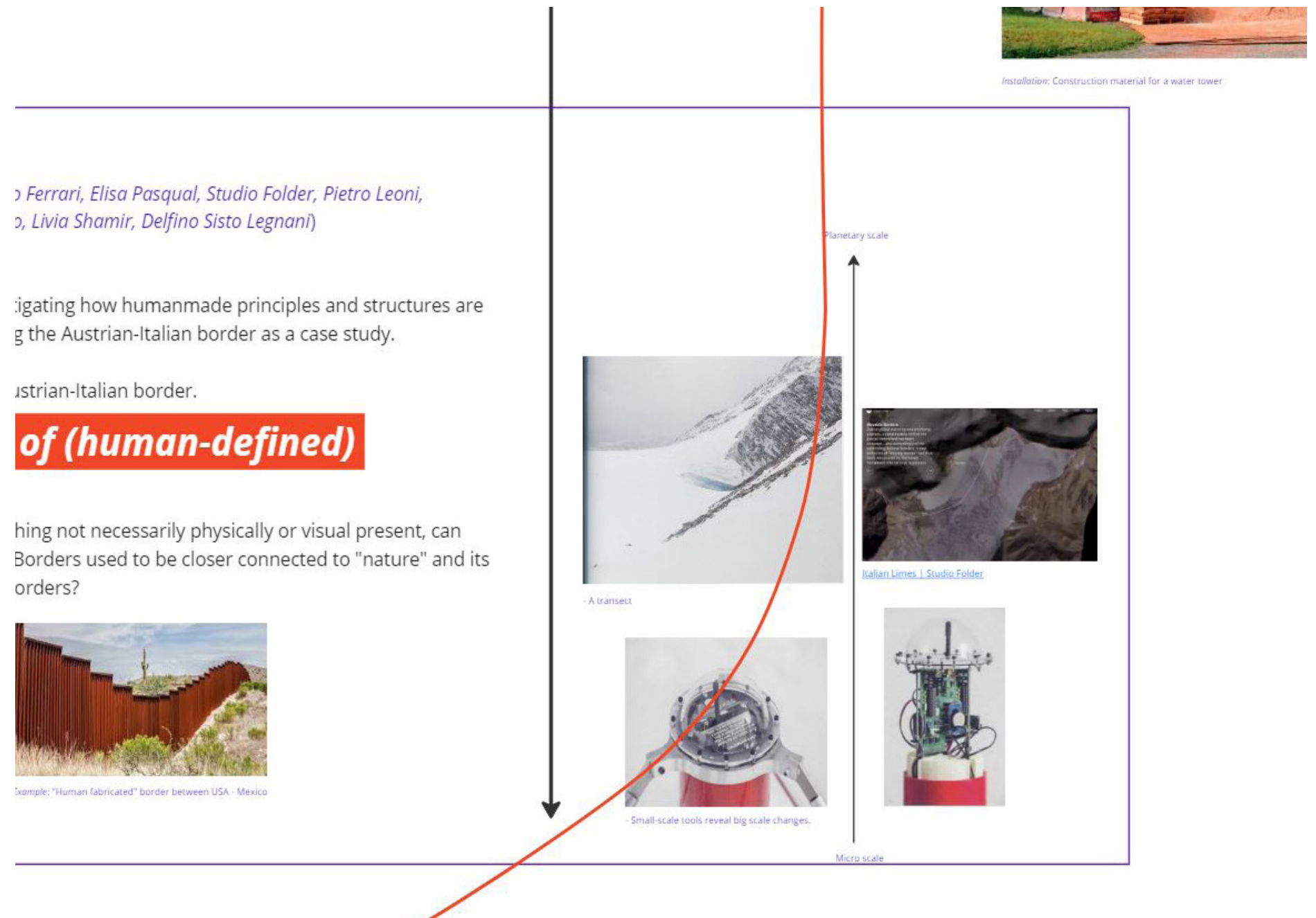


The transect, a microcosm of nature



Highlight

- The microscopic helps us understand the planetary
- Understanding evokes care



"humans are inadequate complacent of what we know, and oblivious to what we miss" - Paola Antonelli

Highlight

- “*Working with a selection of the most interesting terrains in the city*”
- Residual spaces contain possibilities

LARA ALMARCEGUI (1972)

Her work focuses on visualising **entropies within an urban context**, with a focus on materials, nature and invisible elements. These places contains possibilities for nature to overtake and sprawl, in an largely hostile environment, controlled by us (humans).

With the rapid speed of urban development, locations containing these possibilities, quickly gets devoured by the urban fabric. Time evidently is a fundamental element in her studies. Not only due to natures pace, but also because of the short-lived spaces.



Lara Almarcegui: Guide to wasteland of São Paulo (2006)

Care is something unseen,
yet requires attentiveness and
slowness to know how to care.

Care is a function of learning



Alex MacLean, Worcester Street Community Garden, Boston
Worcester Street Community Garden dispone di oltre 100 orti per i residenti
di South End e di orti per i volontari.
Worcester Street Community Garden with over a 100 garden plots available
to residents of Boston's South End and run by volunteers

are, and to meet those needs.
ently scale up to knowing how to relate



Caretaker Kendra Tellervo Reid in the Australian Pavilion. Photo: Andrea Penisto

hibition #2
Jkeles, Life work, Maintenance

***"Doing everyday things, and flush them up to
consciousness, exhibit them, as Art"***



Harford Wash: Washing, Sweeping, Maintenance Outside, 1973
From the performance series Maintenance Art, 1973-74

***"...so that the entire city
would be treated with
the care of the allotment
garden."***

CARE



Alan MacLean Worcester Street Community Garden Boston
Worcester Street Community Garden dispone di oltre 100 tra i più preziosi di South End ed è gestito da volontari.
Worcester Street Community Garden with over a 100 garden plots available to residents of Boston South End and run by volunteers.

How do we care for something which we do not own?



Caretaker Kendra Tellervo Reid in the Australian Pavilion. Photo: Andrea Penisto

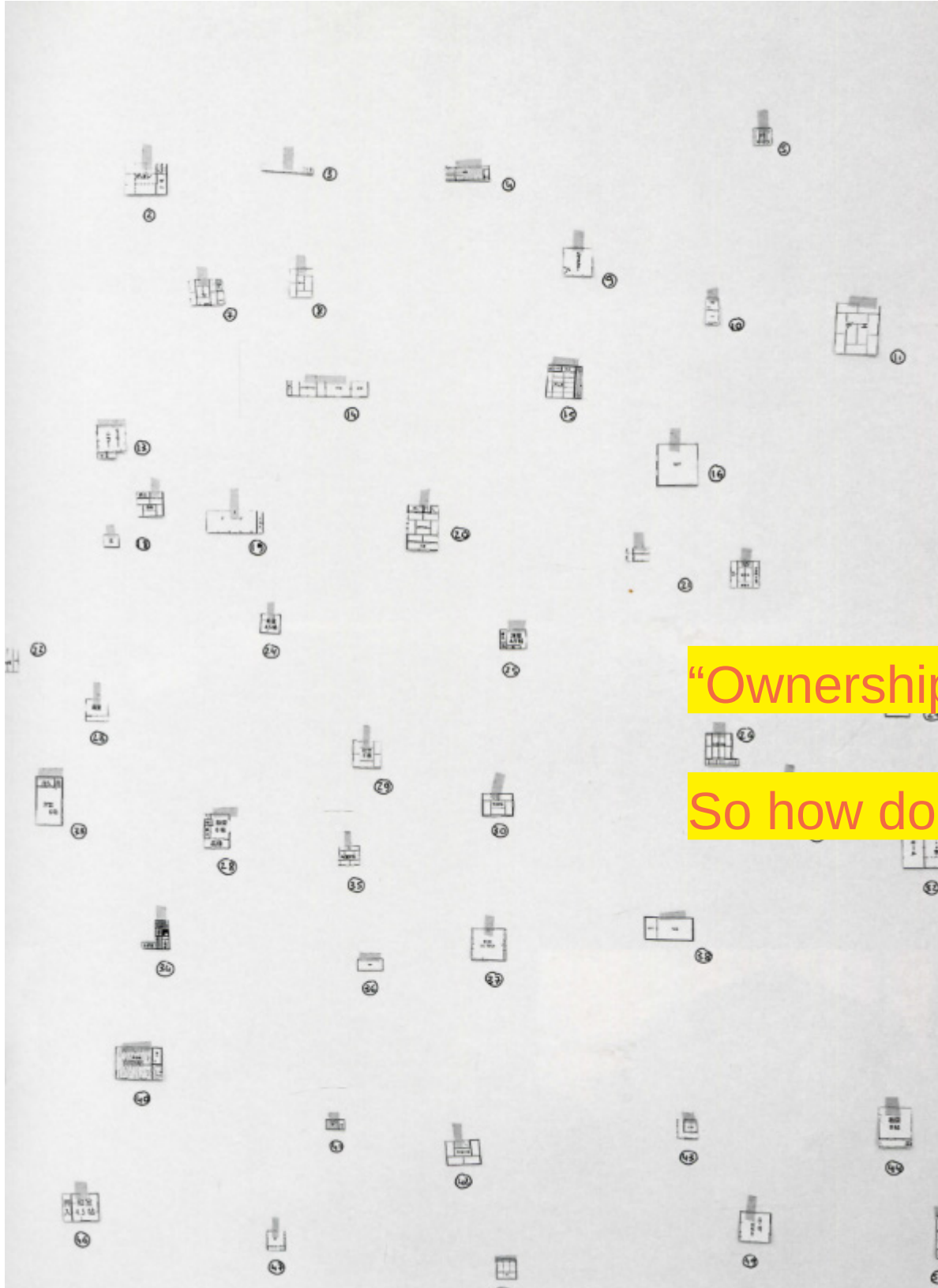
hibition #2
Jkeles Life work, Maintenance

“Doing everyday things, and flush them up to consciousness, exhibit them, as Art”



Harford Wash: Washing, Towing, Maintenance Outside 1973
From the performance series Maintenance Art, 1973-74

“...so that the entire city would be treated with the care of the allotment garden.”



Junya Ishigami, Freeing Architecture

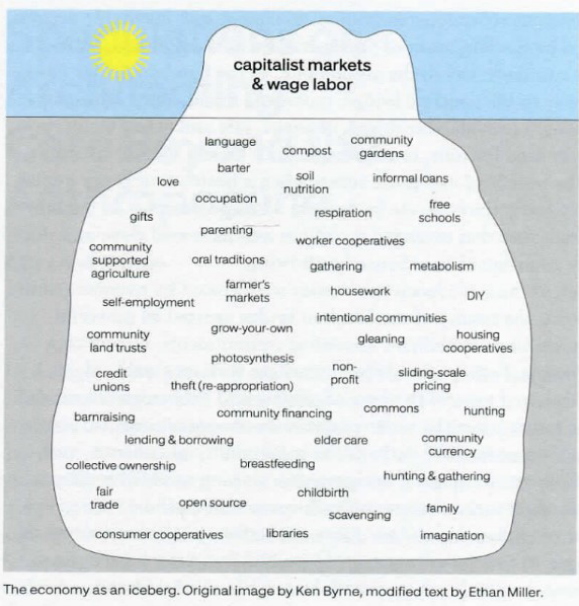
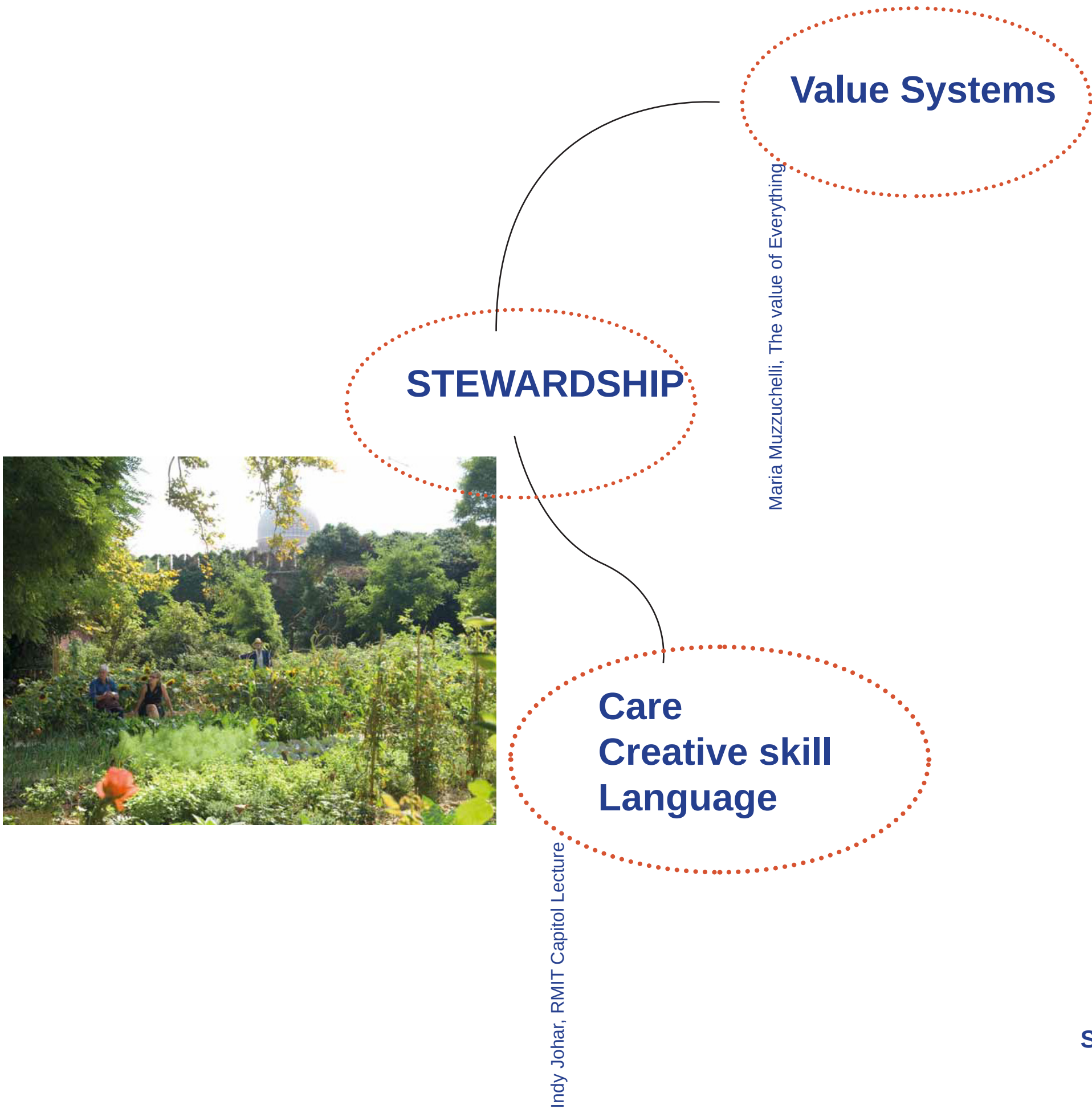


Joseph Grima, Non-Extractive Architecture

“Ownership gives us the right to destroy”

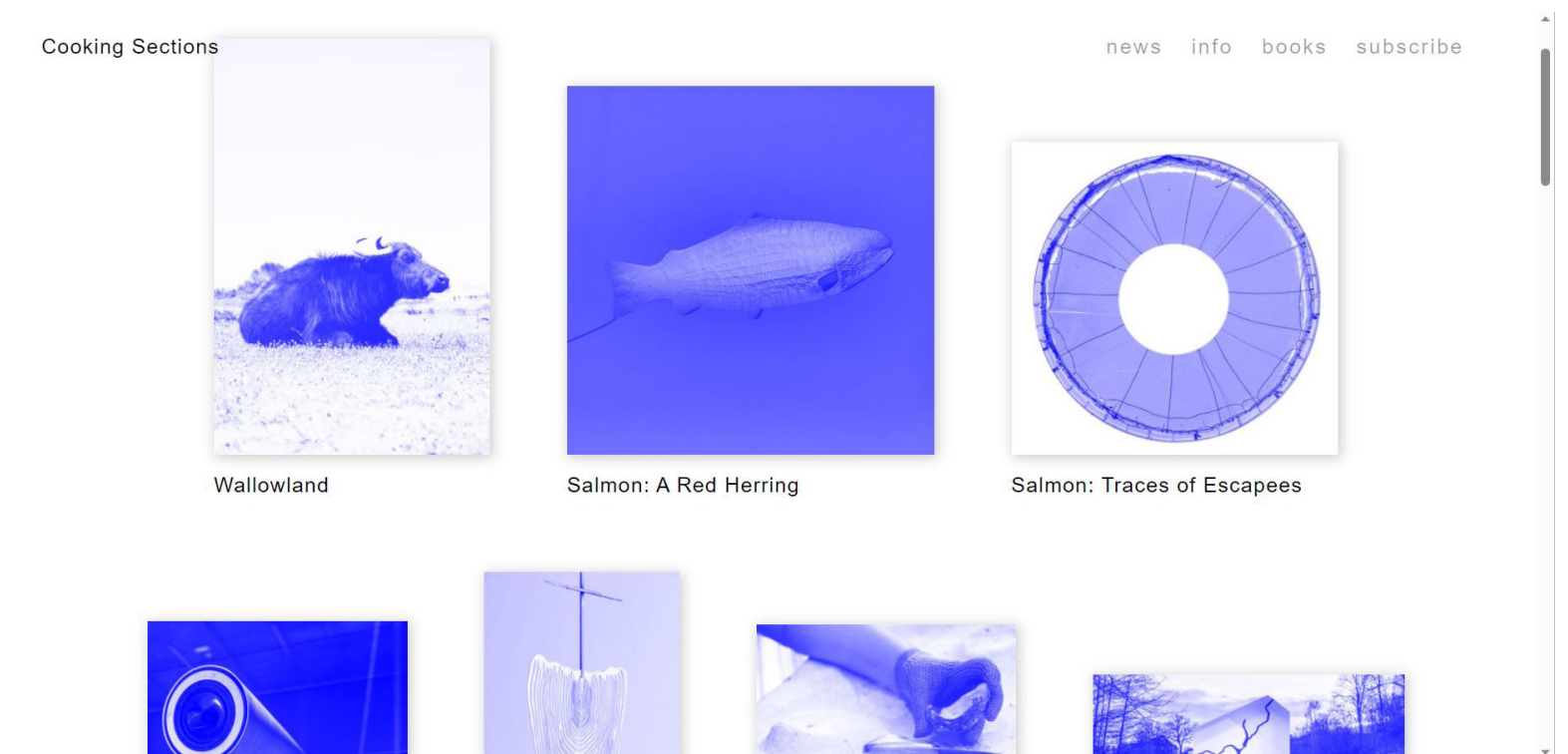
So how do we learn to not destroy?

OWNERSHIP



Cooking sections

- A curating practice, explore the overlapping boundaries between art, architecture, ecology and geopolitics.
- Approach: Examines the systems that organise the world through food



Devaluing Property Real Estate Agency, Cooking sections, installation-performance, 2016

- Devaluing Property Real Estate Agency, installation-performance, 2016
- Installation performance, showcasing a portfolio of toxic assets.
- Questions the definition of the British landscape and who defines it.
- 'Native,' vs. 'invasive'
- A taste of the Plant That Can Sink Your Mortgage Ice Cream.



- Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*) ‘the plant that ate Britain’
- Deflation in property value.
- Poor soil, with lack in nutrients to support plant life, provides conditions for Japanese knotweed to thrive where only few survive.



- “Offsetting” has allowed architecture the agency to destroy, displace, and replicate natural landscapes
- Trees have become performances



“trees are now put to perform and offset human footprints.”

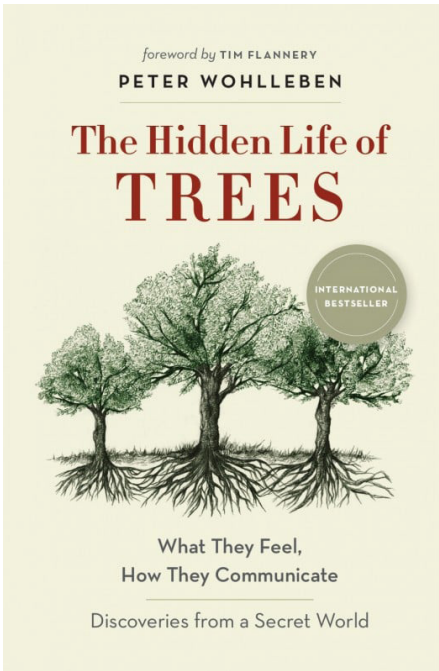
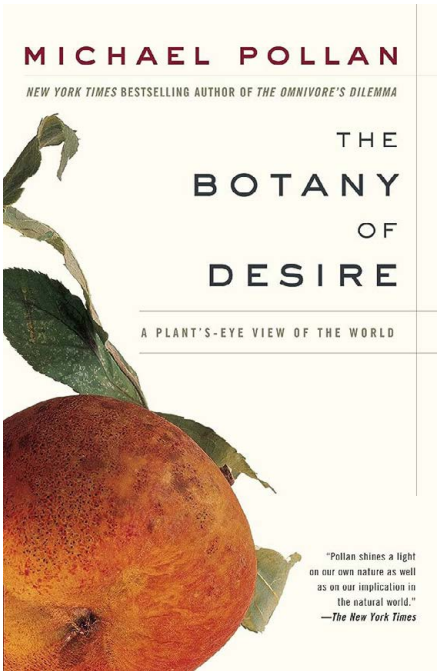
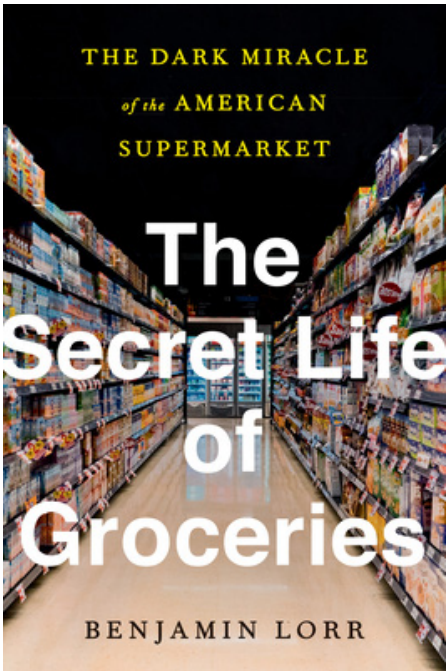
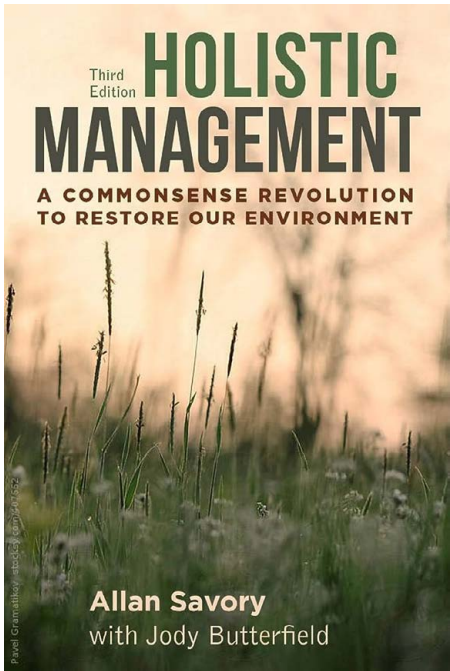
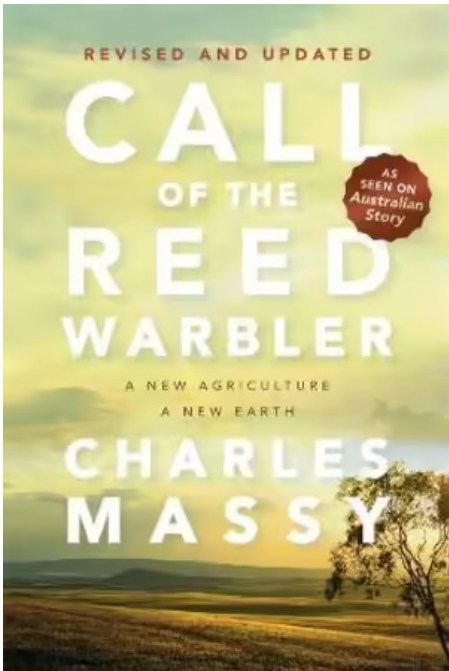
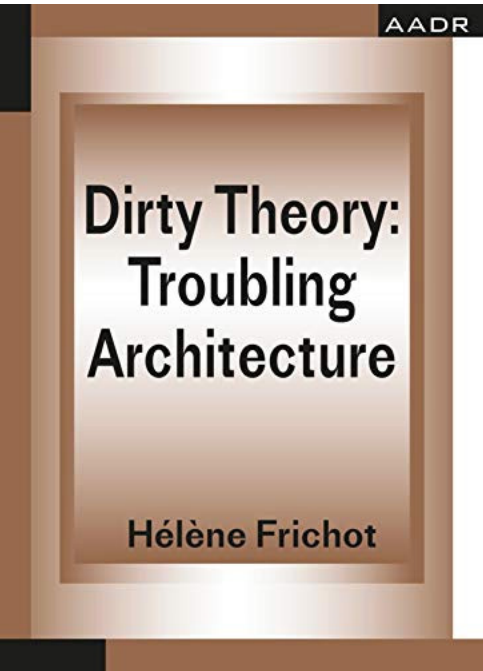


Growth in Anoxic Conditions
Lenia Pachy, Diana Agrest

Focusing on the extreme, one can understand conditions that prevail in less extreme forms.
- Diana Agrest

Additional Practitioners and References

Further Readings/Inspiration



Scientific measurements:

moisture content, pH, microbial biomass, O horizon thickness ... Soil classification (scientific names)

'Care' measurements:

'Sense-oriented'

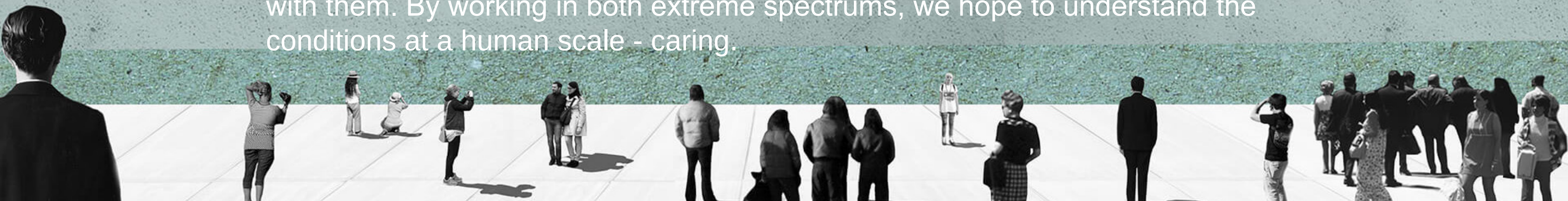
Classifications are Qualitative, emotive, descriptive



Throughout the initial 6 weeks, we have come to understand 'Urban Nature' as something not only found within the city boundary but something that cities (with its demands) stretches far into the nature outside it.

We want to investigate how 'the urban' effects and interacts with nature. Going from the wildness found in the city to the wilderness, more specifically from Kensington Community Gardens to the fringes of Caroline Springs.

We'll work in the biological scale, doing small scale felt studies of selected areas, in order for us to better understand the broader systems at play and work with them. By working in both extreme spectrums, we hope to understand the conditions at a human scale - caring.



SOIL



THE FAULTLINE

Walking a Line in Peru, Richard Long (1972)

What is the line?

- The randomness of the line, gives us a less predefined set of spaces to investigate - potentially less directional in our research

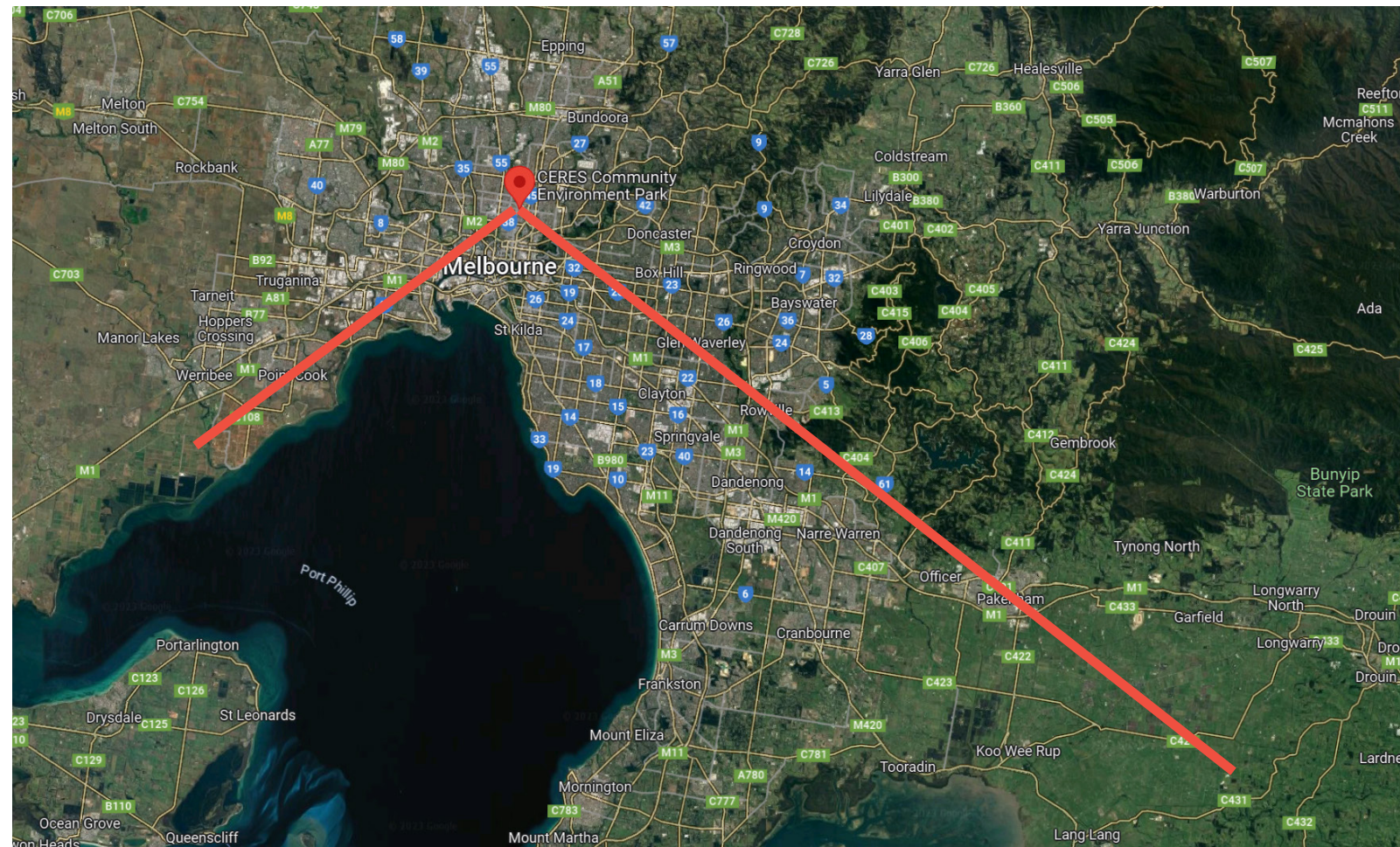
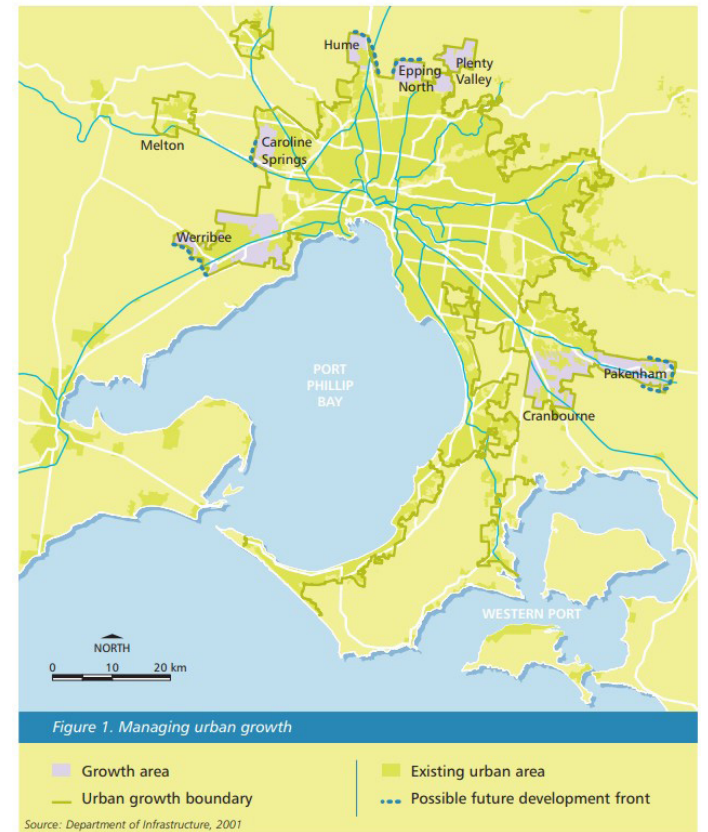
The transect

- Transect sampling through the city.
The selection of spaces we investigate should be where the line intersects with bigger infrastructural elements, bodies of water, ecology or social function. (Max. 50m from the transect)
- Story telling and felt studies of 10 different sites along the transect
- Tools: Map, measuretape, frame, photo equipment, sketches, samples, notes, soil measuring equipment

Good soil health should be the highest determining factor for land value.

Seeing soil through a 'Transect line' stretching from CERES Community Farm to Werribee South / Bunyip Food Belt

At the end of the line is the benchmark (Bunyip being the most fertile land)



"The general public talks about suburbs gobbling up farming land. It's not that, it's progress; and it's our business progressing to the next generation," Therese Schreurs says.

Tension over the development of Victoria's most productive horticultural areas at Clyde is just one crack opened by an emerging faultline in Australian public policy over farmland and how we use it. That faultline runs between the need to farm and the right to capitalise on farmland. The argument is repeated in the rows over coalmining and coal seam gas extraction in Queensland and New South Wales, and the impact of lifestyle blocks on farms in peri-urban areas around all Australian cities.

It is leading to unusual political rifts and alliances as governments, parties and organisations such as the National Farmers Federation divide internally, and the likes of shock jock Alan Jones share protest platforms with the Greens against coal seam gas.

production that still occurs in and around Melbourne.

The bounty of farmland on Melbourne's fringe and just beyond can be found every day in Coles and Woolworths. In the early-morning hours, trucks from Tyabb, Clyde, Pearcedale, Devon Meadows, Cranbourne and Werribee South deliver freshly picked fruit and vegetables to the distribution centres of the two major supermarkets. On a recent morning in the Woolworths Mulgrave centre, there were leeks from Tyabb, cauliflower from Werribee South, spring onions from Clyde and asparagus and broccolini from Koo Wee Rup, where 90 per cent of Australia's asparagus crop is grown.

It is Melbourne's two most productive horticulture areas — Werribee on the city's western fringe and the Cranbourne area to the south-east — that are now facing mounting pressure from development. Planning Minister Matthew Guy announced his first changes to the boundary in coming months. As *The Age* reveals today, the minister is almost certain to ignore Casey Council request to reverse a Brumby government decision and take Clyde's vegetable growing out of urban Melbourne. Casey accounts for one-quarter of Melbourne's vegetables and the bulk of its spinach, celery, leeks, spring onions and leeks, including parsley and basil.

to redraw the boundary so that Werribee South, the long-standing vegetable growing area, is included in the city's vegetable growing area.

For others concerned for the future of agriculture in the peri-urban area around Melbourne, the Lamattina story is a cautionary tale. They warn of the dangers of farmers being driven ever further from markets only to become more reliant on expensive, unreliable irrigation and long-haul transport. "This is the 19th century unbounded-continent thinking, which is unfortunately still endemic in some of our government departments," says Michael Buxton.

Buxton says there is an urgent need for specific long-term protection of more prime farmland close to transport and markets, especially the highly productive areas around cities. It is an idea gathering friends and enemies in farming, in politics, and among influential bureaucrats.

In late 2010, the Prime Minister's Science Engineering and Innovation Council called for the Commonwealth to work with the states on a national planning strategy for agriculture, including the preservation of food-growing land in peri-urban areas.

While it is unclear why, the call for specific protection of farmland failed to get endorsement where it needed to — in the federal government's National Food Plan now being developed. A preliminary report as part of the food plan process concluded that land use issues were a state responsibility. (However, those backing the push for federal leadership on such issues point to the fact that the minority Labor government is dependent on the goodwill of two regional independents.)

Development displacing farmlands and food production

Farmland seen as vacant land

Farmers and planning researchers have for decades warned against development encroaching on the fertile farmland within 100km of the city.

A **body of research** shows the city's food security and climate resilience rely on its ability to source fresh supply from its immediate surrounds, where much of the state's richest soil holds the capacity to provide about 82% of the city's fresh vegetables and all of its eggs and poultry. The urban fringe food bowl produces almost half the vegetables grown in Victoria, according to the **Foodprint Melbourne** project.

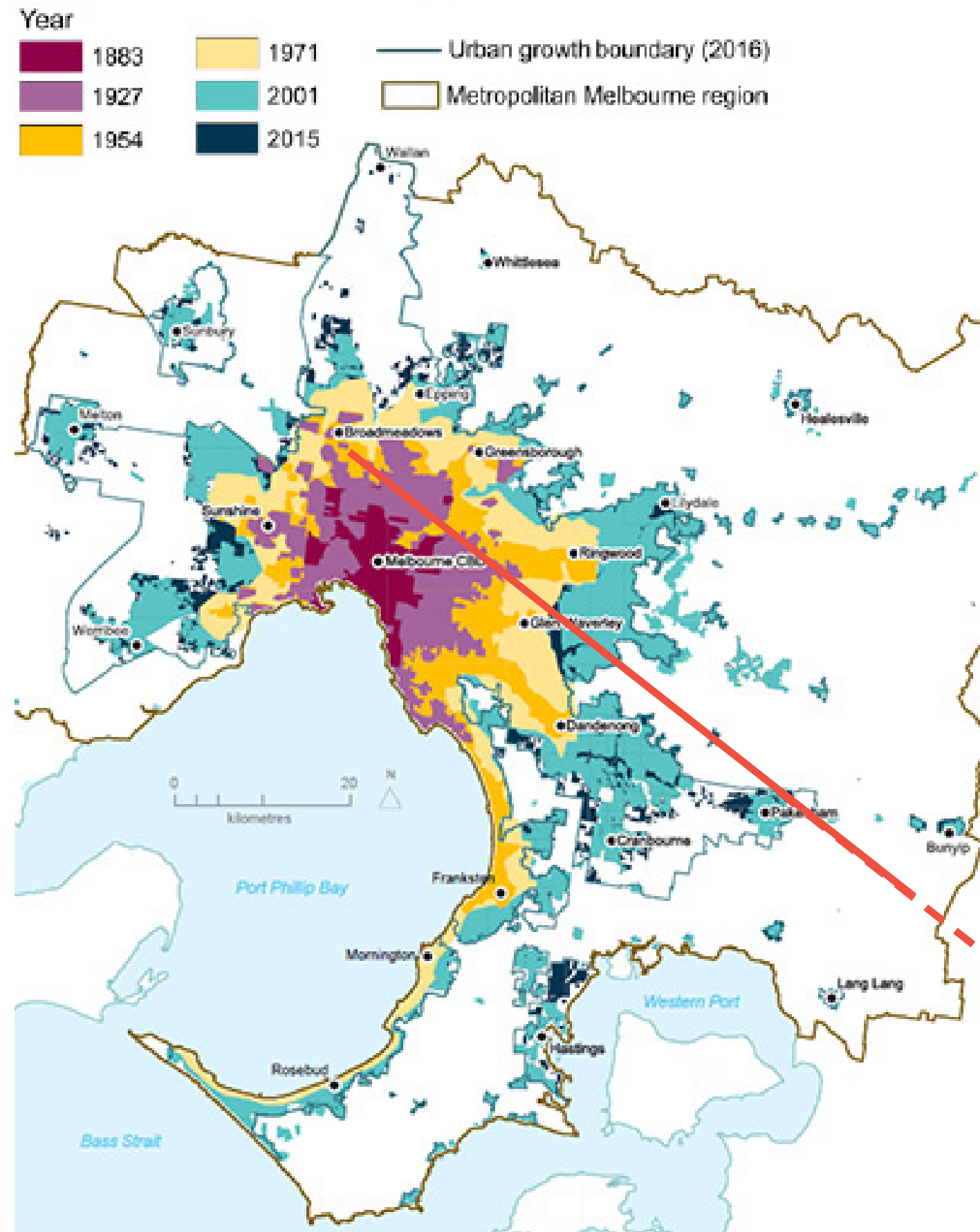
But as lifestyle properties and a growing number of suburban-style housing estates displace farms, this capacity is undermined. Melbourne now has the largest footprint of any Australian city. The market gardens that used to populate the urban fringe are being displaced by vineyards, horse properties, high-end niche produce, tourism and land banking.

Growth corridors with **poor infrastructure** and often **substandard amenities** extend into the Mornington Peninsula, Yarra Valley, Werribee, Bacchus Marsh and West Gippsland - all regions with unusually productive soils recognised in state policy.

Farmers are usually paid a premium to sell. For multi-generational

Urbanisation is causing food production areas to be shifted further out, or farmers to quit altogether

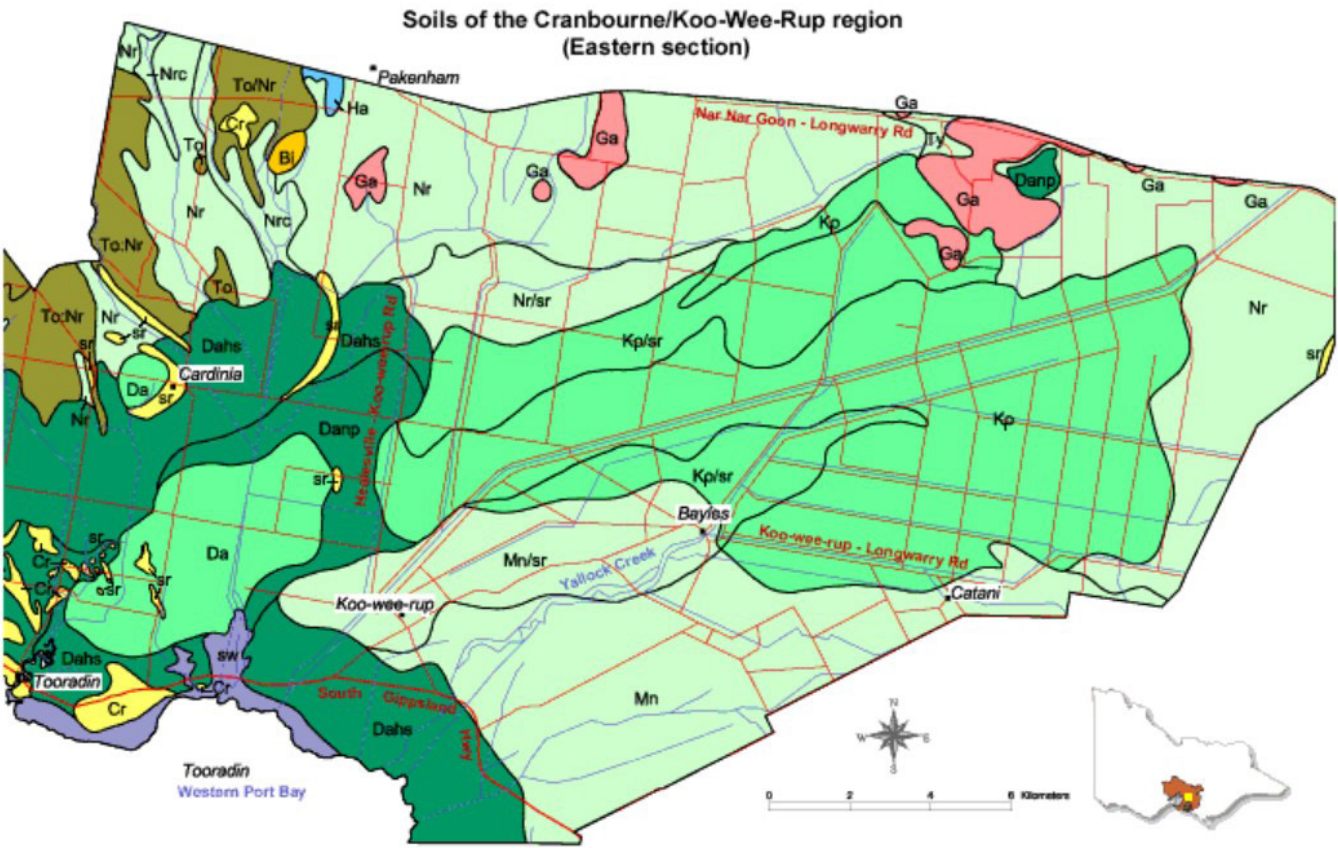
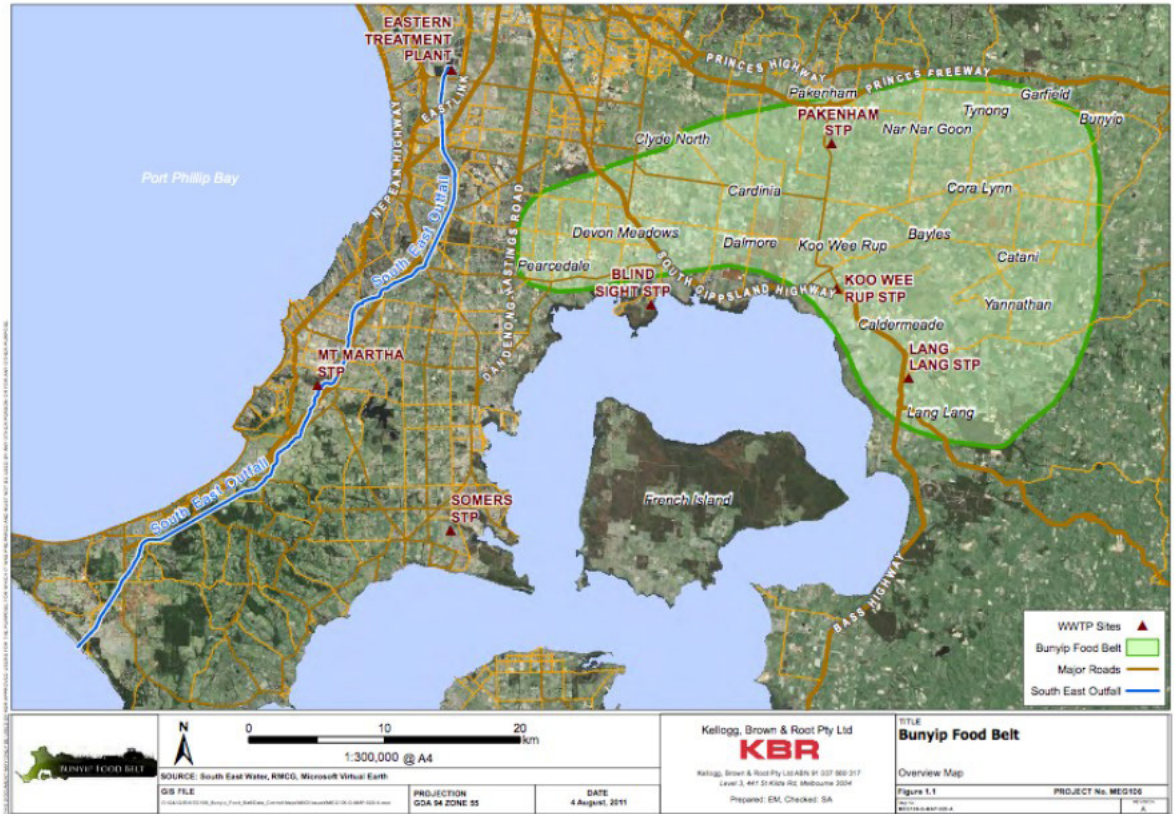
Melbourne's urban growth



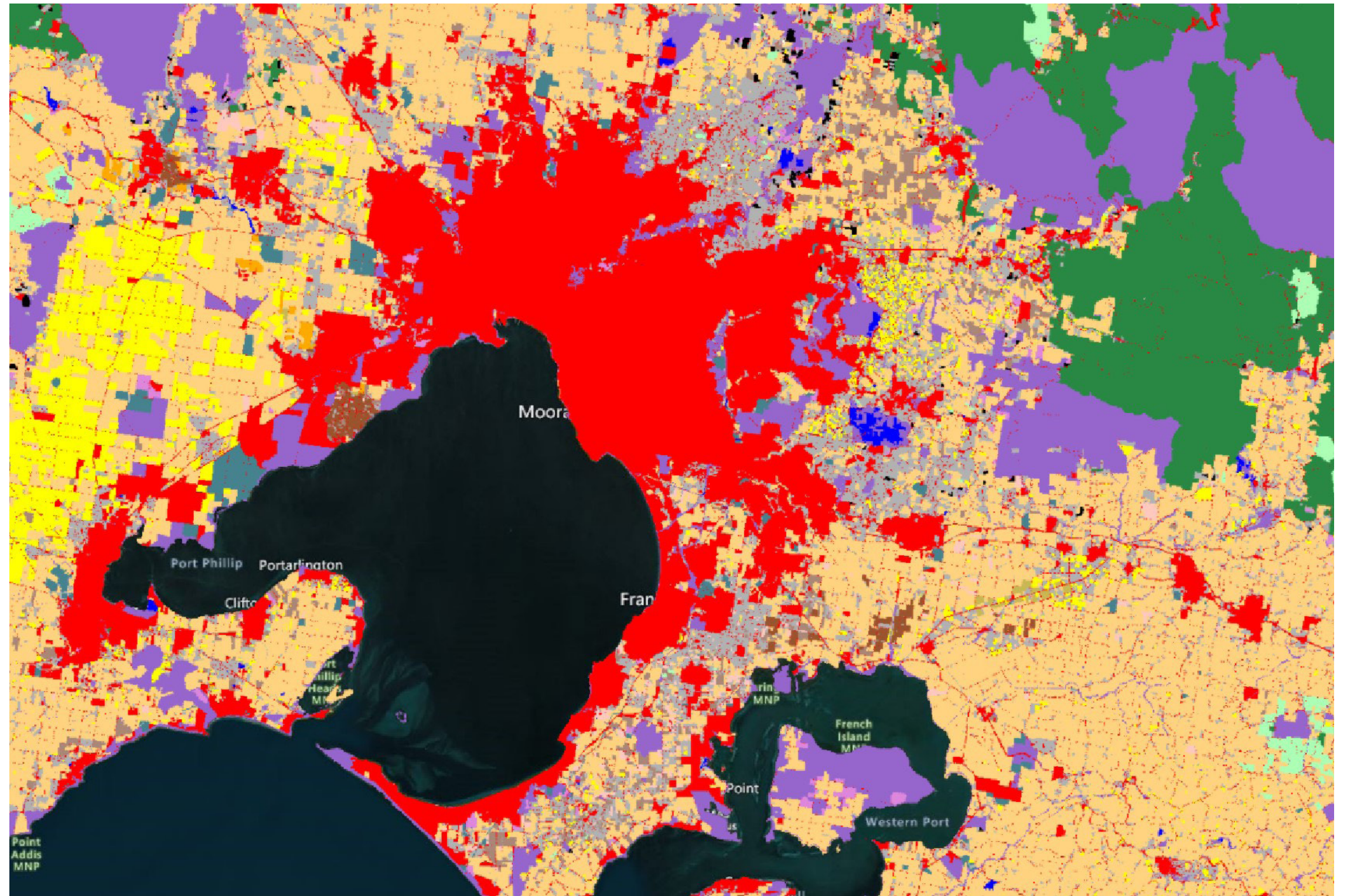
This line will continue to spread further out

Bunyip Food Belt

<https://www.rmccg.com.au/bunyip-food-belt-lessons-learned/>



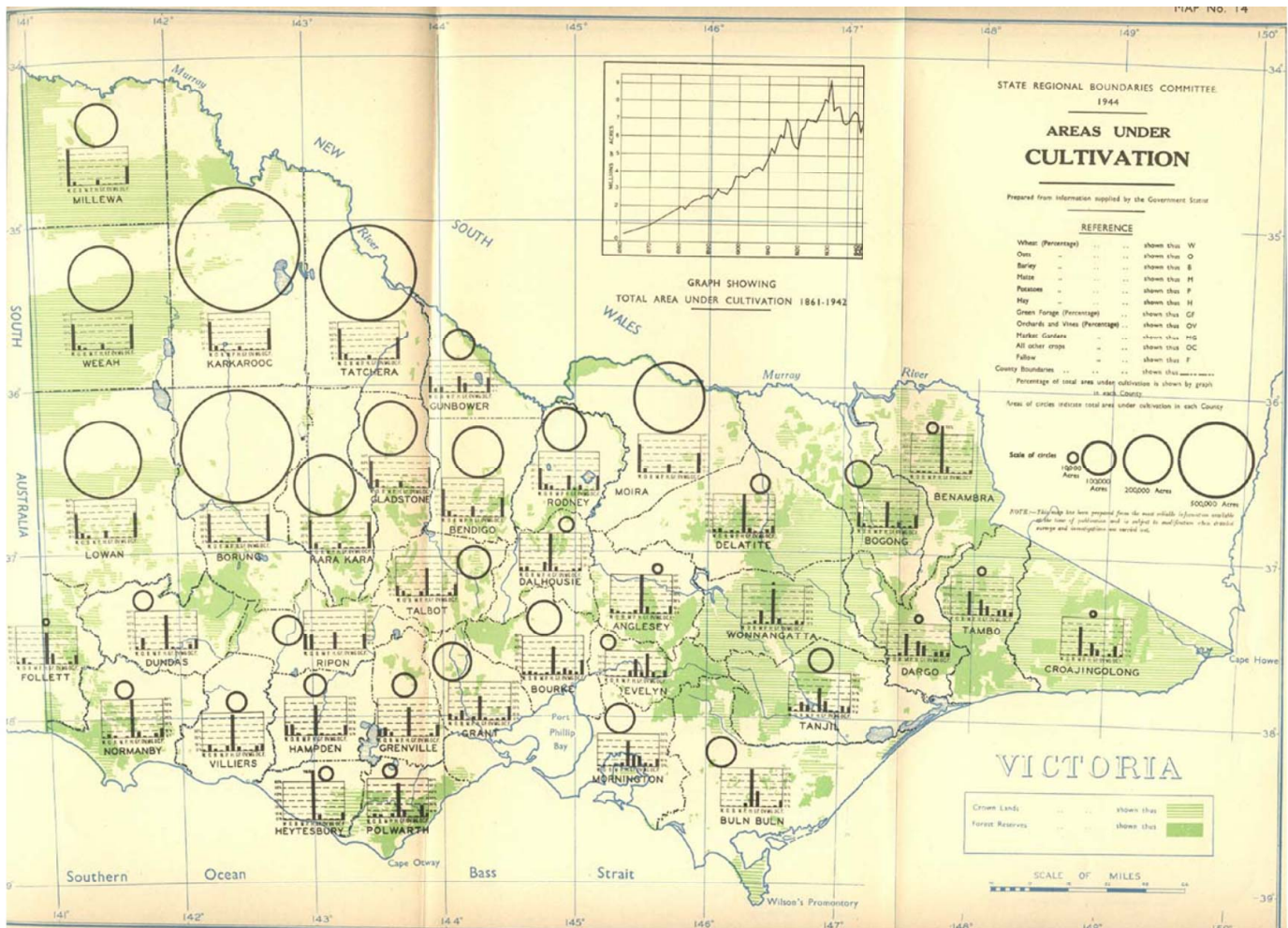
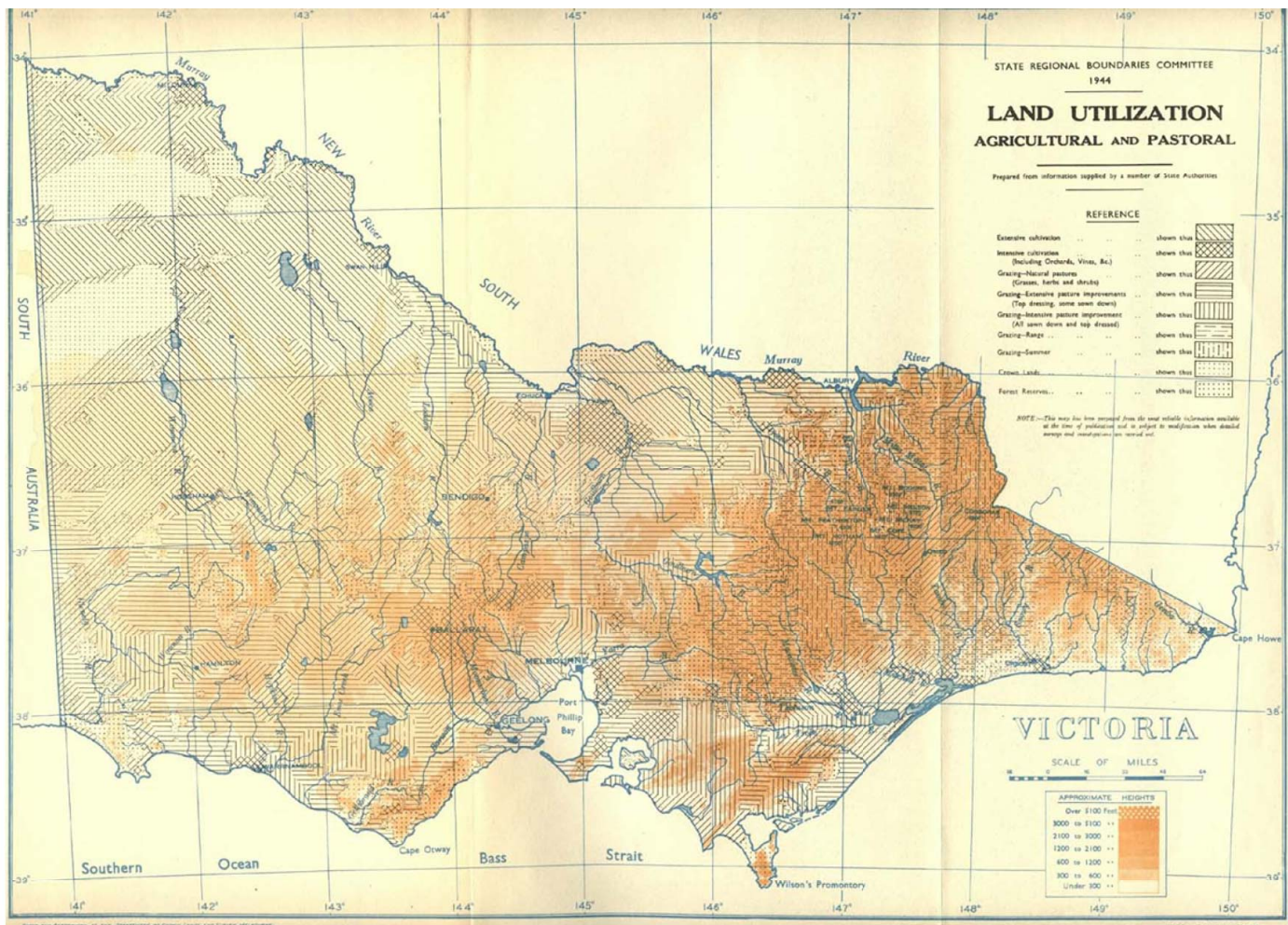
2020 mapping of land use and soil quality changes



2020 mapping of land use and soil quality changes



Historical mapping of land use and soil quality changes



Thursday 21 September	Base Map (pin point of sites)
Friday 22 September	Collingwood Yards + Tarrawarra Museum exhibitions
Monday 25 September	Site visit + Sampling
Thursday 05 October	First draft on representation of findings

References

Understanding and finding inspiration for methodologies through exihibitons



Collingwood Yards - TERRA: Memory & Soil



Tarrawarra Museum: The Soil Project

TERRA: Memory + Soil is a collaboration between Victoria Pham and Joel Spring, whose critical interdisciplinary positions—evolutionary biology, architecture, contemporary art, and composition—bring vastly different insights into notions of the built environment, history and legacies of colonialism.

When we consider gardening, we tend to create a relationship with the natural world through control. Instead of revealing the Earth beneath our feet, we often seek to conceal it, relegating soil to a tool from which our ideal forms grow. This work combines digital art and research into local indigenous knowledge. Instead of a geometrically symmetrical space bordered by hedges and freshly mown grass, Spring and Pham offer a space to listen and experience history through soil, and reconsider what it means to garden.

THE FINAL PROJECT



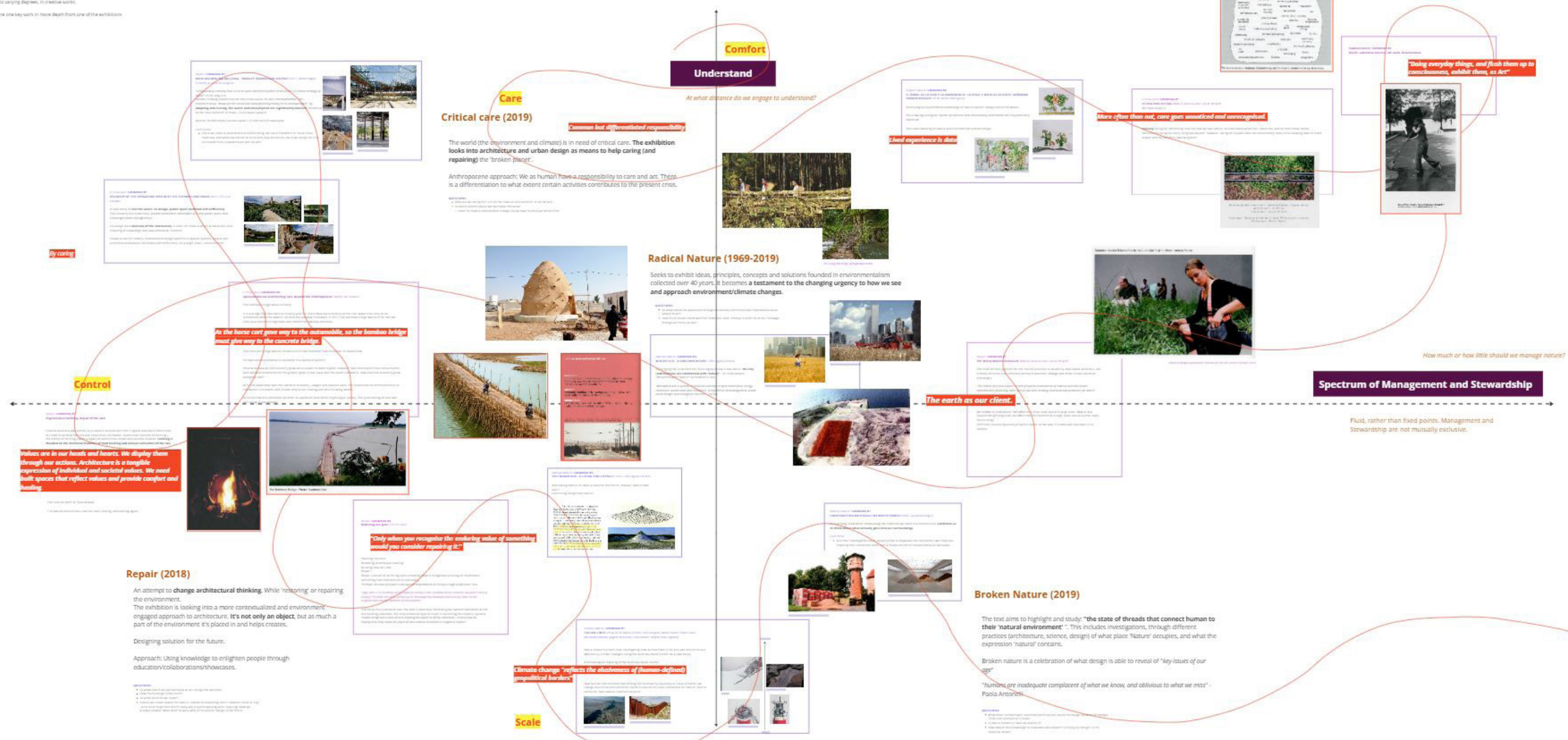
PRECEDENT

Architecture Elective: Rewilding Architecture w. Richard Black

Week 1 - 6

TASK

1. What contextual themes around climate change are explored in the exhibitions and what challenges do you see emerging for designing architecture?
2. A critique of human relationship with nature (in all its forms) is a common thread across the exhibitions. Selectively explore these ideas and examine how they have been explored to varying degrees, in creative work.
3. Critically examine one key work in more depth from one of the exhibitions.



Care is something unseen, yet requires attentiveness and slowness to know how to care.

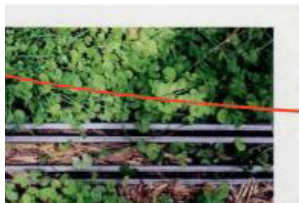
Care is a function of learning

“... a care perspective is central for radical rethinking”
- Leslie Kern



Alex MacLean, Worcester Street Community Garden, Boston
Worcester Street Community Garden dispone di oltre 100 orti per i residenti di South End e gestito da volontari.
Worcester Street Community Garden with over a 100 garden plots available to residents of Boston's South End and run by volunteers.

are, and to meet those needs.
ently scale up to knowing how to relate



Caretaker Kendra Tellervo Reid in the Australian Pavilion. Photo: Andrea Penisto

hibition #2
Jkeles Life work, Maintenance

“Doing everyday things, and flush them up to consciousness, exhibit them, as Art”



Harriet Webb, Washing, Tracing, Maintenance: Outside, 1973
From the performance series Maintenance Art, 1973-76

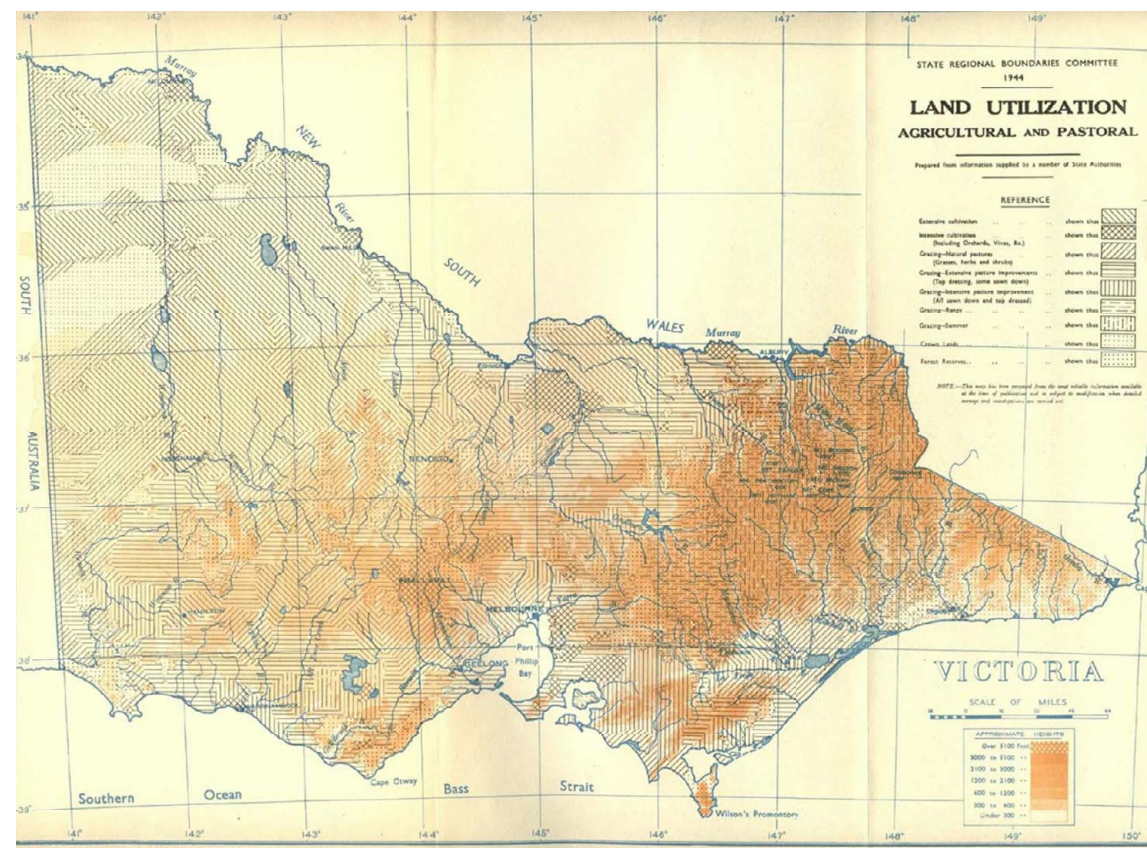
“...so that the entire city would be treated with the care of the allotment garden.”

CARE

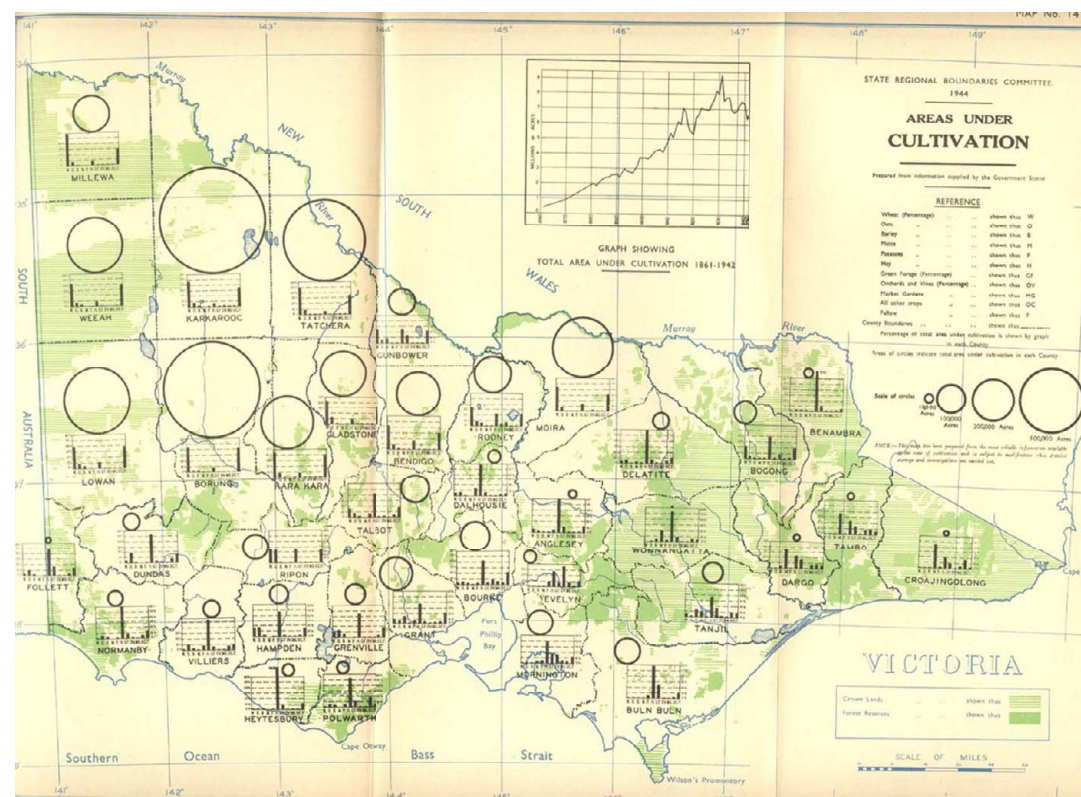
The background is a complex collage. On the left, a black silhouette of a person is superimposed over a pattern of horizontal black and white stripes. To the right of the silhouette is a grayscale image of a globe. The right half of the image is a light gray background with faint, scattered images of leaves. A thin red vertical line is positioned to the right of the word 'SOIL'.

SOIL

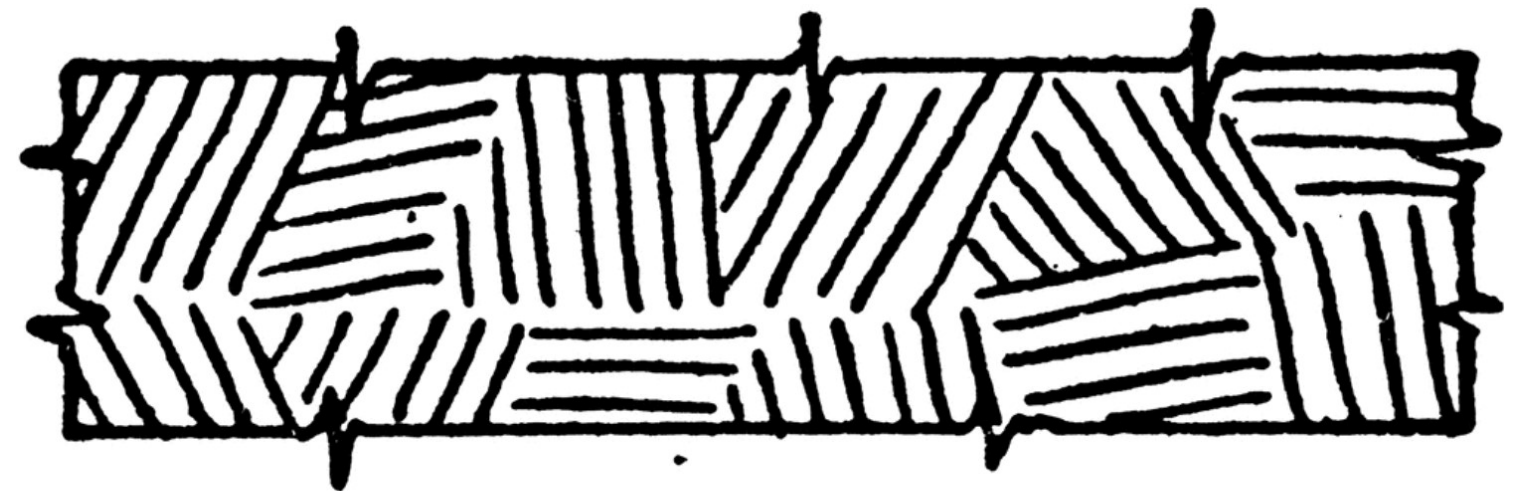
Soil, Rewilding Architecture



There is good soil all around us



Have we limited our care of soil to the crop boundaries of our drawings?

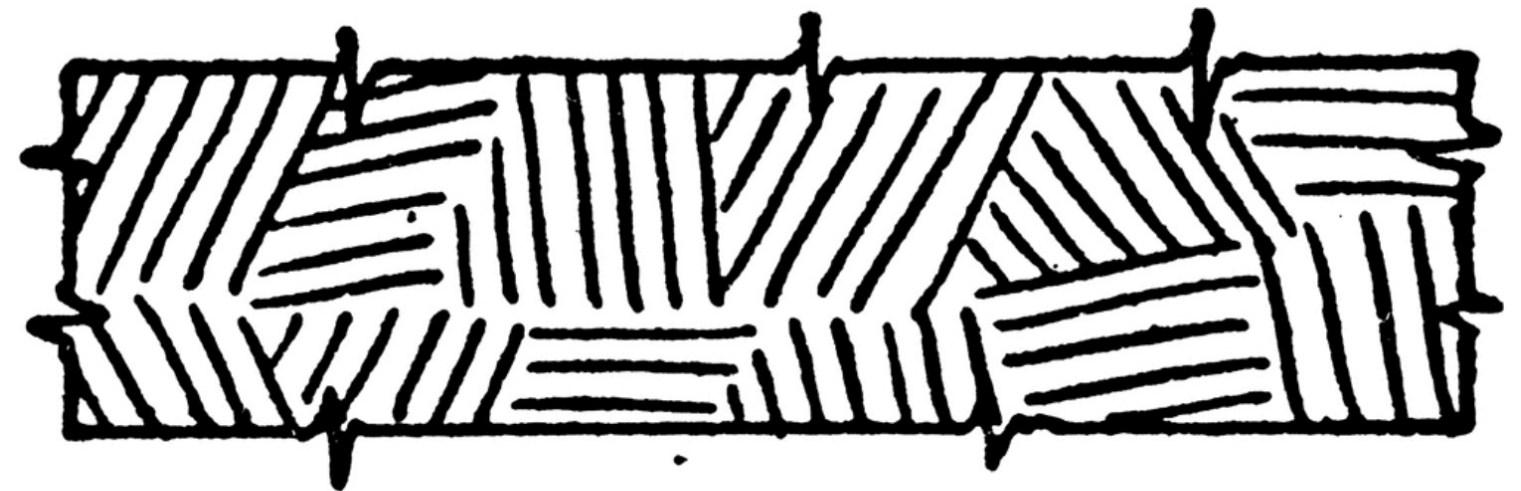


• EARTH • IN • SECTION •

Soil vs. dirt

Soil: A mixture of organic matter, minerals, gases, liquids and organisms that together support life

Dirt: Displaced soil



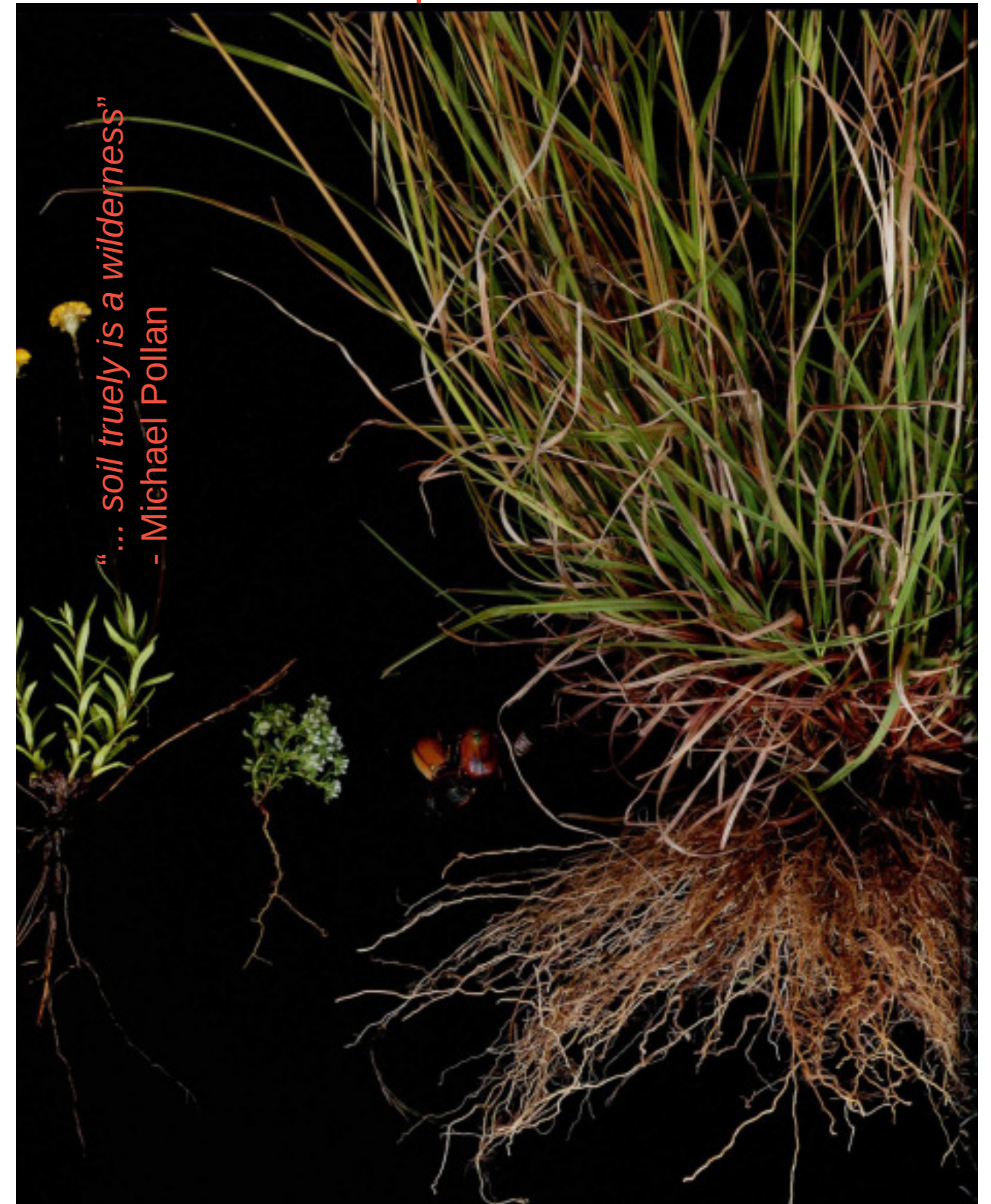
• EARTH • IN • SECTION •

Soil is the oldest living organism and takes thousands of years to form.

Regarded as an asset to some, and a strong spiritual, physical, social and cultural connection to others.

Healthy soils underpin all 'sustainable'/regenerative practices amidst this climate catastrophe

With our project we seek to study/research/map soil quality and its compactness/dryness in relation to its surroundings. We want to investigate the relations between compact and dry, or soft and fertile soil with what and how much life can thrive as a result of it.



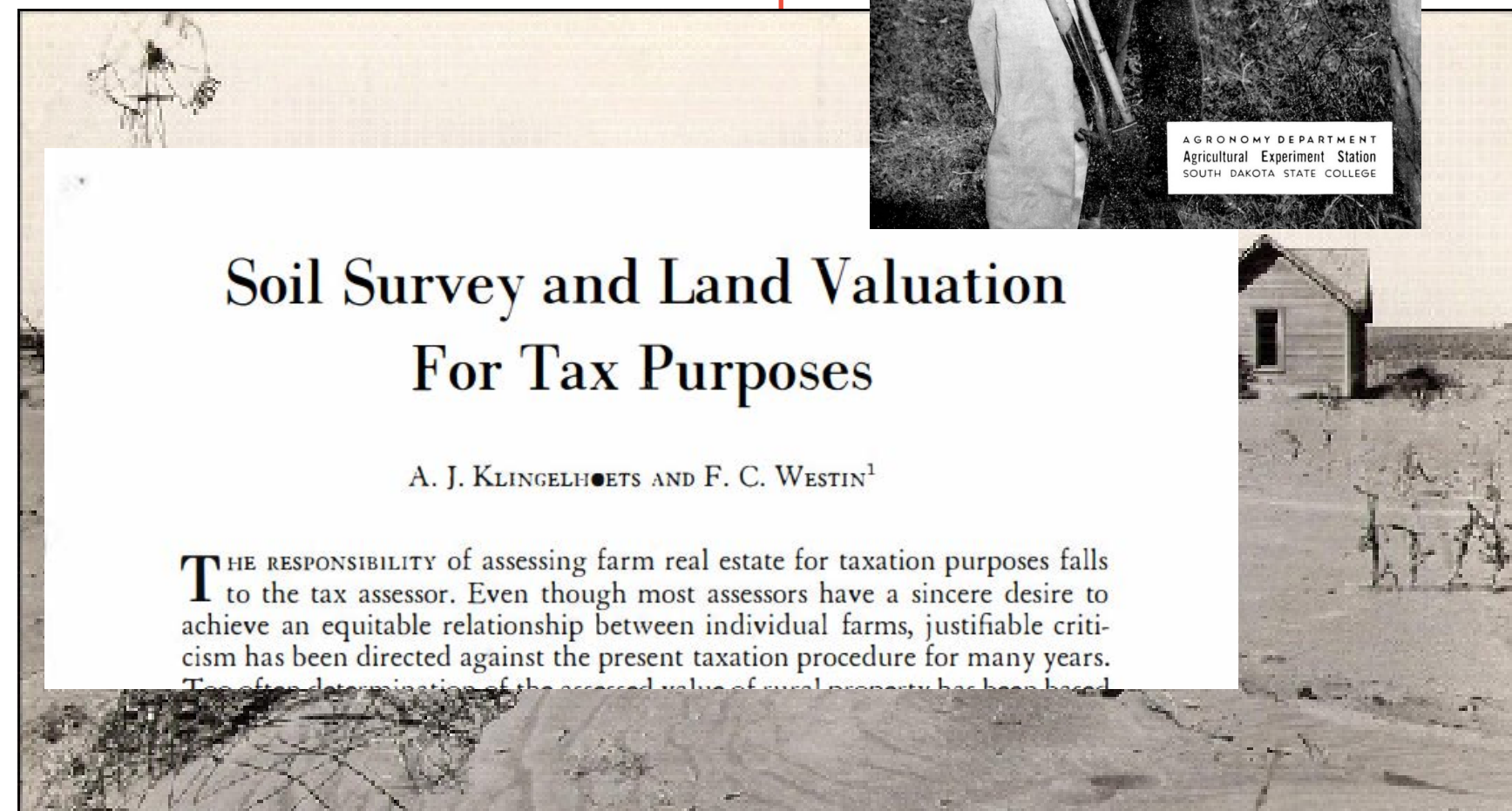
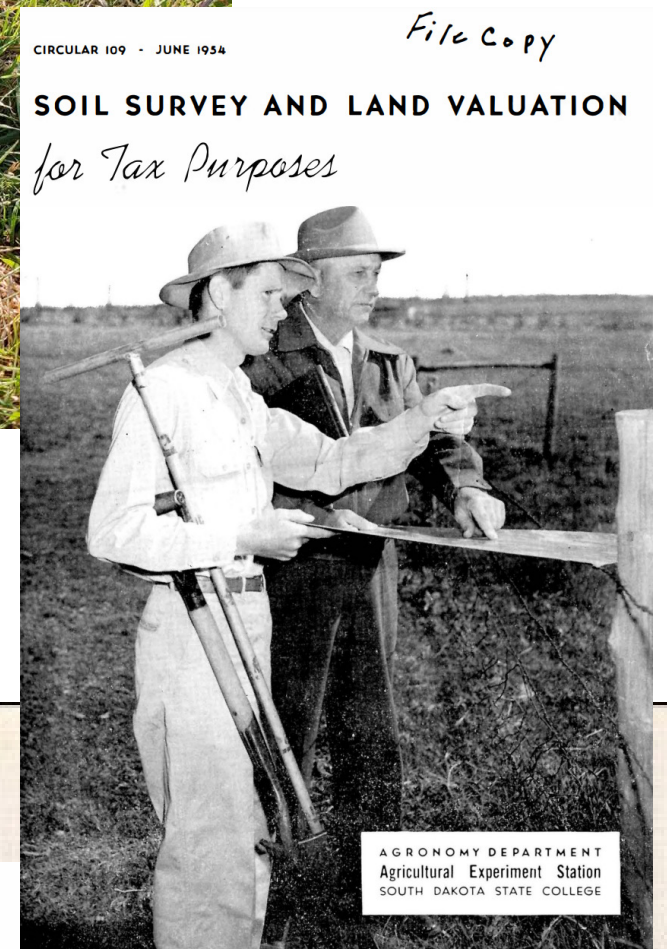
Soil determining Property and Land Use

95% of the world's food comes from soil and soil organisms₁

Land use change from natural vegetation to agricultural land is closely linked to increased rates of soil erosion.

Soil quality: “The capacity of a soil to sustain plant and animal productivity, maintain or enhance water and air quality, and support human health and habitation”

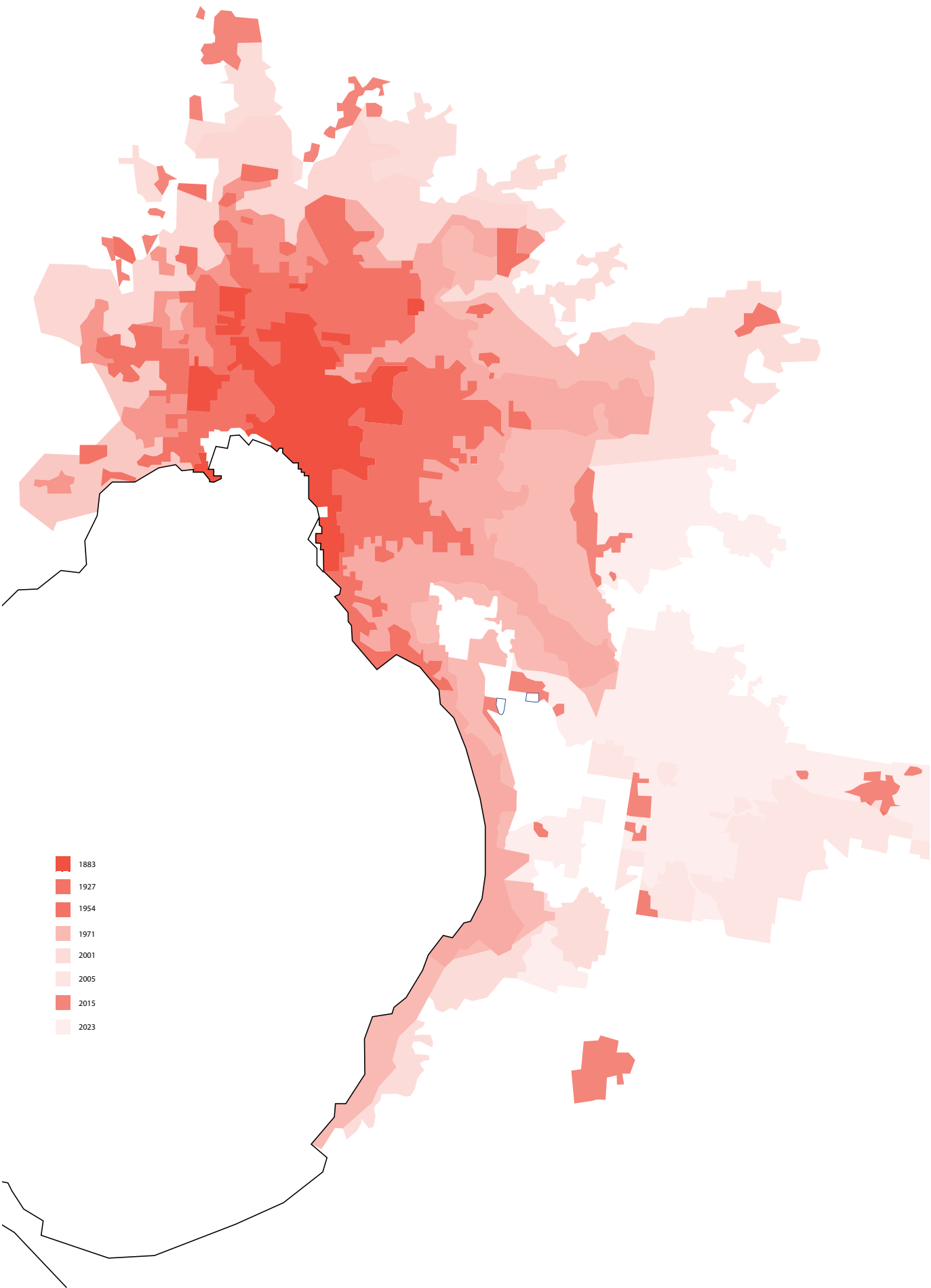
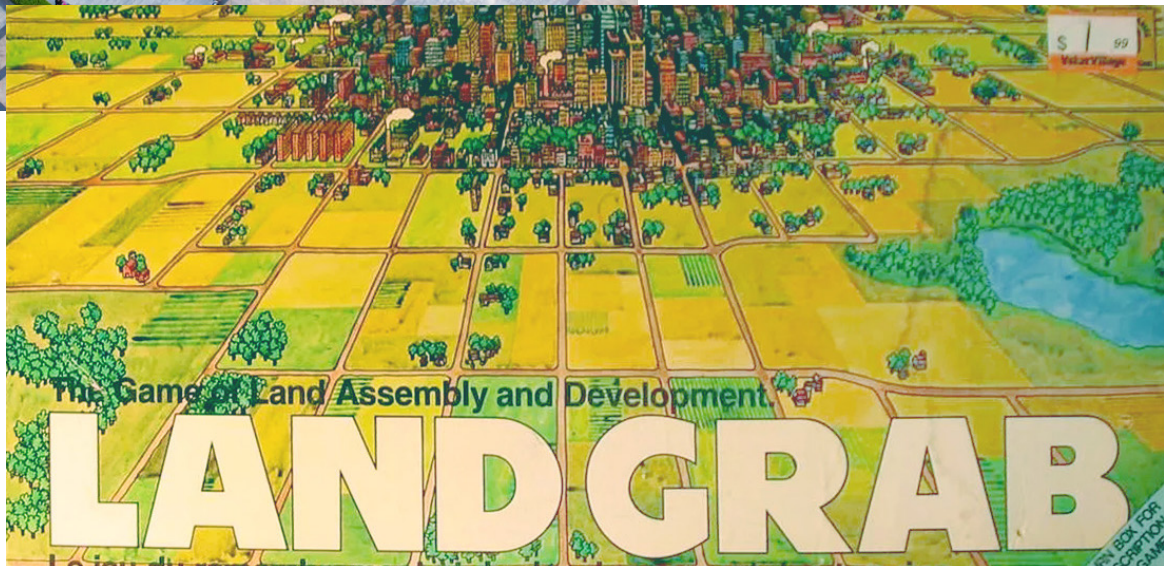
1_ (<https://www.agriculture.gov.au/agriculture-land/farm-food-drought/natural-resources/soils>)



Soil quality is important

The growth of our city is placing a demand on our soils

- production demand
- quality demand
- spatial demands



METHODS

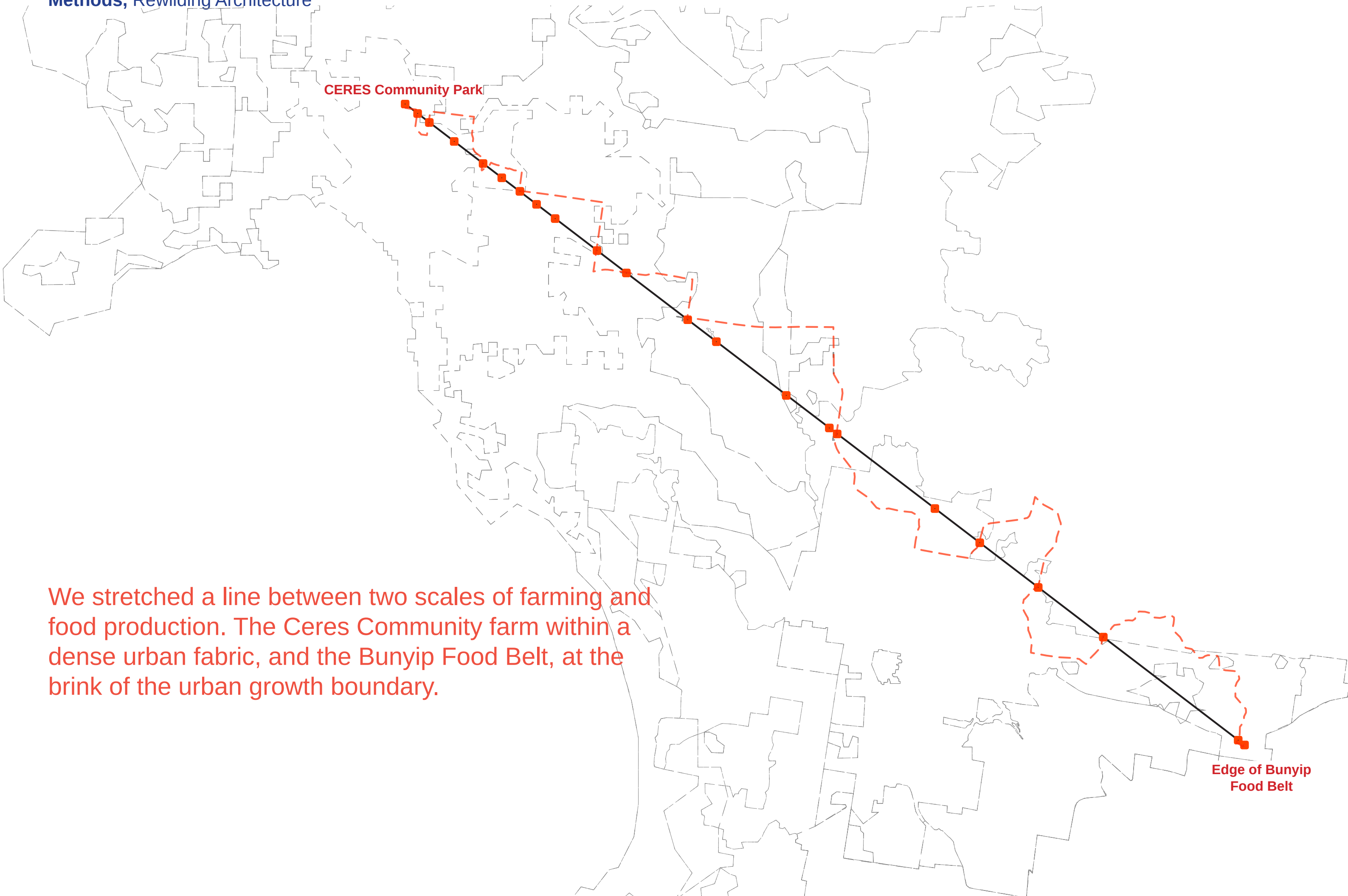
The transect

A set of spaces for sampling throughout the city.



Walking a Line in Peru, Richard Long (1972)

- Story telling and felt studies of 10 different sites along the transect
- The randomness of the line, gives us a less predefined set of spaces to investigate - but potentially less directional in our research



We stretched a line between two scales of farming and food production. The Ceres Community farm within a dense urban fabric, and the Bunyip Food Belt, at the brink of the urban growth boundary.

Methods, Rewilding Architecture



Ceres Community Farm



Cities are critical sites for rethinking how and where we care...
- Leslie Kern

How do we navigate this line of tension between the inevitable growth of our cities and our need for good produce?



Perhaps it is in the middle ... perhaps the residential growth boundaries should be reconsidered instead of for further development, for grounds for growth. Grounds that give priority to the potential for food production.

“Entropies within an urban context contains the possibility for nature to sprawl”
- Lara Almarcegui



We wanted to measure the soil quality at each point where the line intersected the road





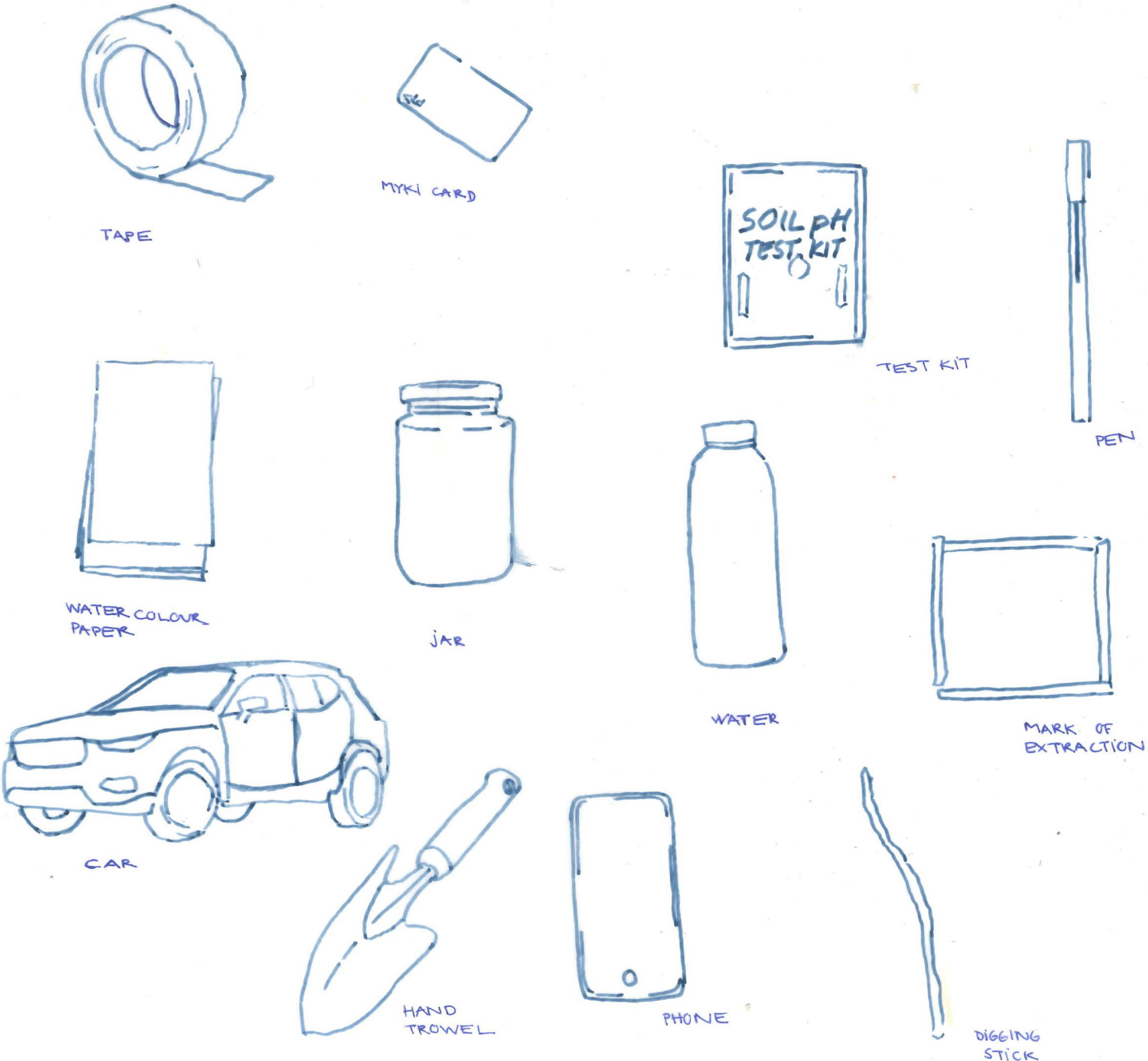
Soil

Quality						Action						Documentation						Tools					
Composition						Conducting ‘the jar test’						Photos, notation						Glass jar, water, marker, pen, paper,					
PH value						Sample measure						Pictures, notation						PH Test kit, camera, pen, paper					
Colour						Observe						Photos, writing						Pen, paper, camera					
Organic material						Observe						Drawings, photos, writing; samples						Pen, paper, camera					
Non-organic material						Observe						Drawings, photos, writing; samples						Pen, paper, camera					

Context

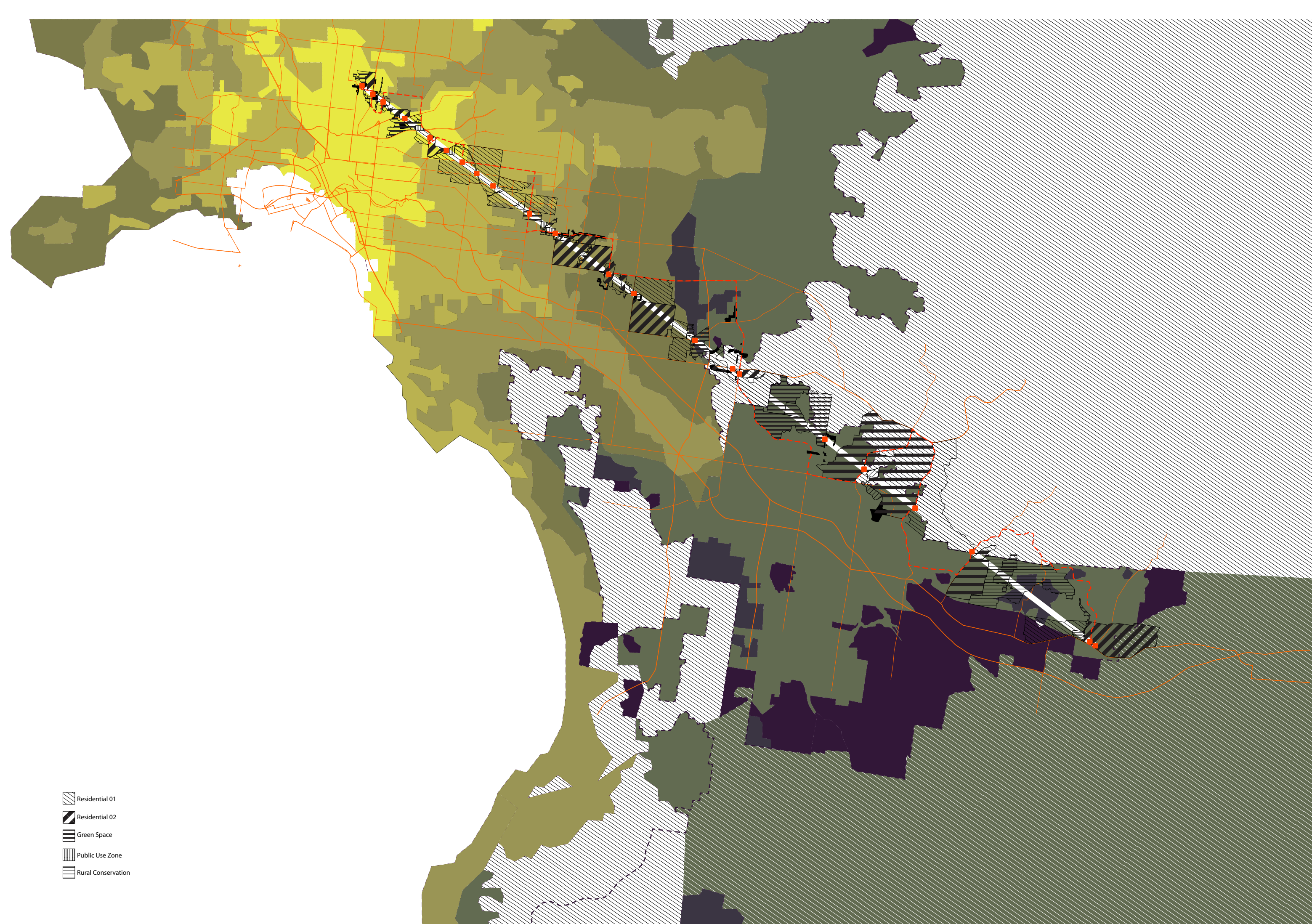
	Quality	Documentation	Tools	
	Sounds	Recording, writing, drawing	Pen, paper, camera	
	Microclimate	Writing, drawing, photos	Pen, paper, camera	
	Objects	Drawing, photos, writing	Pen, paper, camera	
	Ecology	Drawing, photos, writing	Pen, paper, camera	

Tools





-  Residential 01
-  Residential 02
-  Green Space
-  Public Use Zone
-  Rural Conservation



Site 01:
Ceres Community
Environment Park





PH: 7½



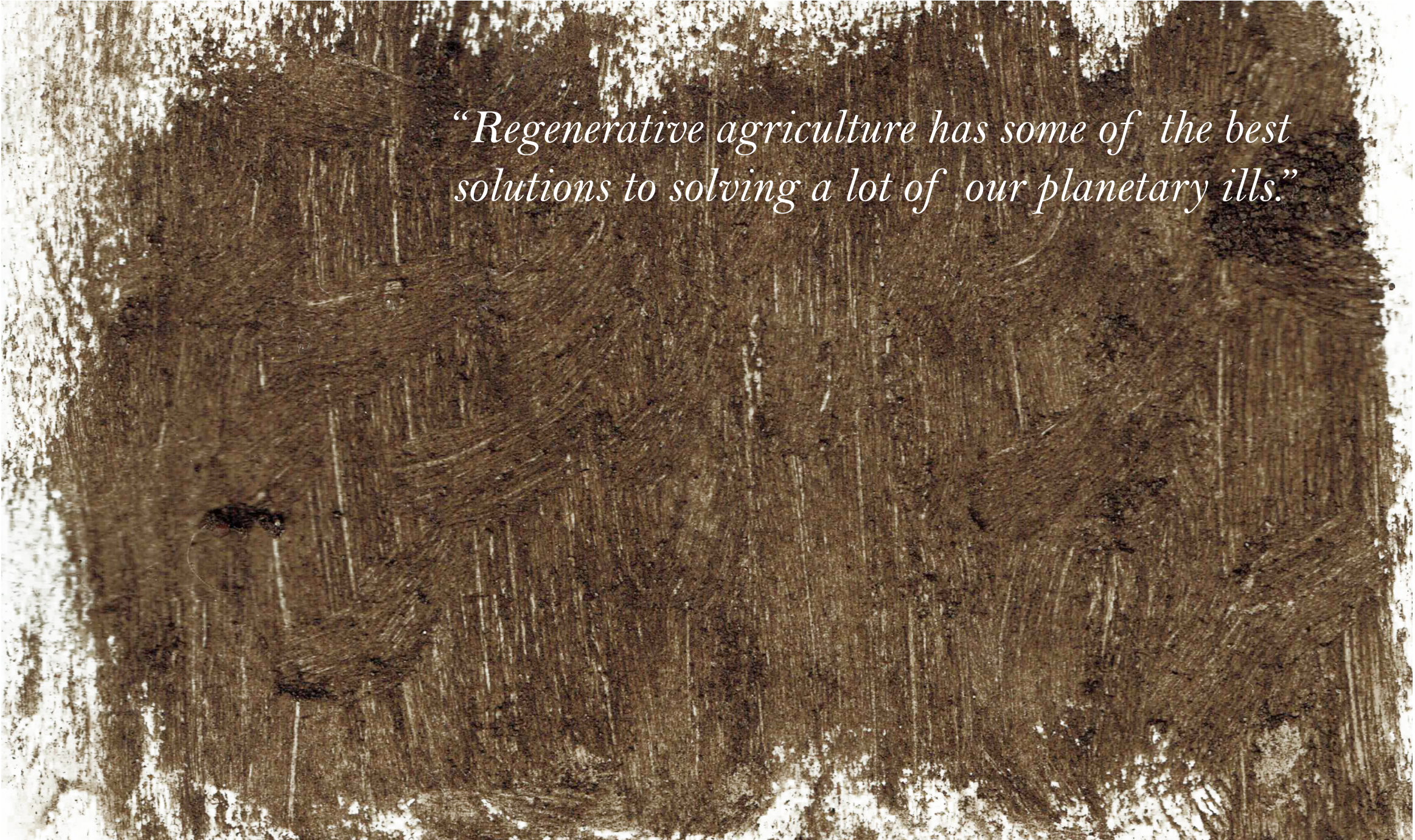


STOP 1: (CERES COMMUNITY) TIME: 14:20 - 14:25
WEATHER: SUN, BREEZY

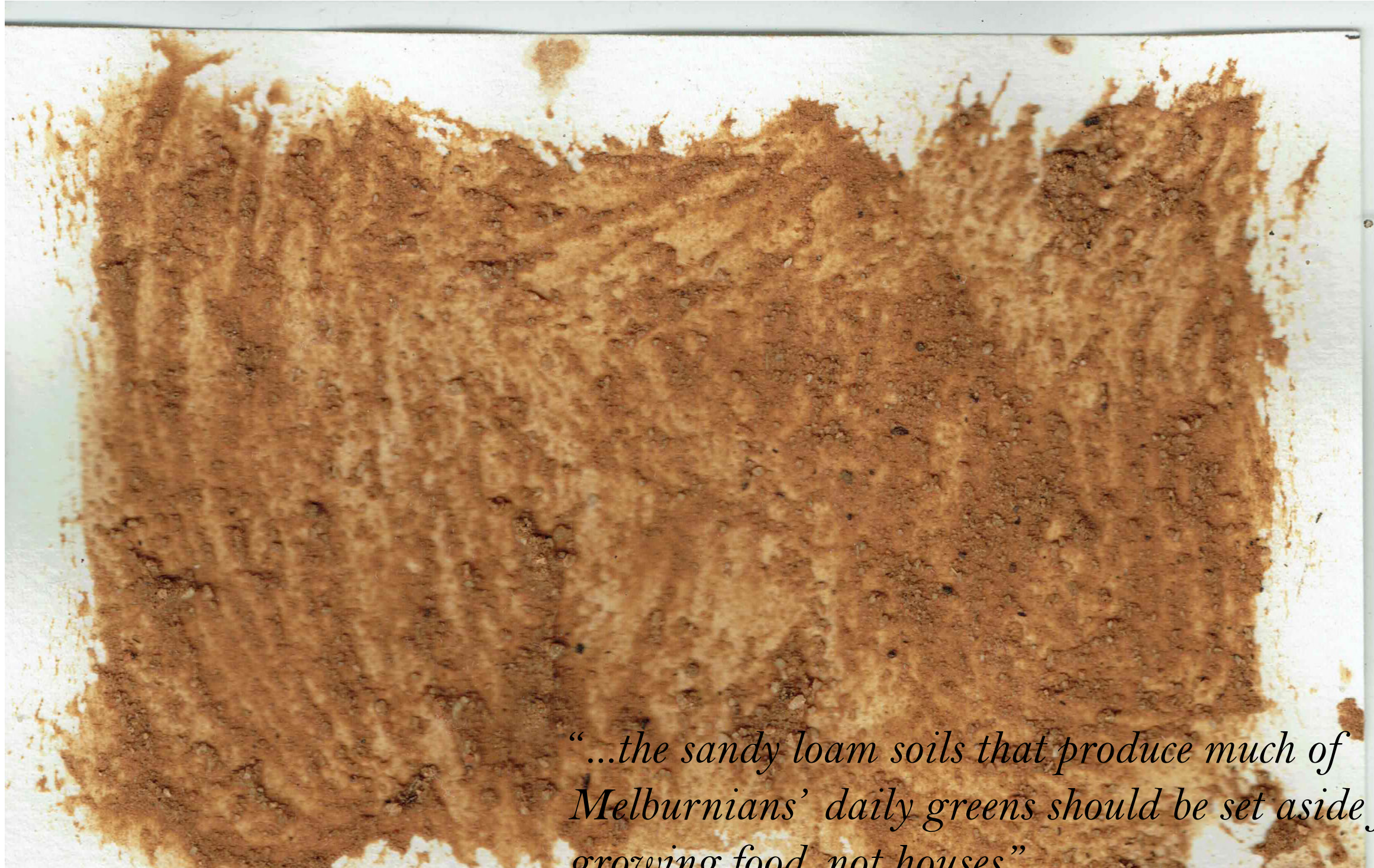
- small refuge in the buzzing urban fabric
- surrounded by green, trees on wind, but also sound of traffic, helicopters, building (backing truck), the wind in trees fight for the overpassing, an illusion of "nature"
- sound of my footsteps moving from the asphalt to the dirt roads that unites me in benches placed in the unkept grass, ah wilderness





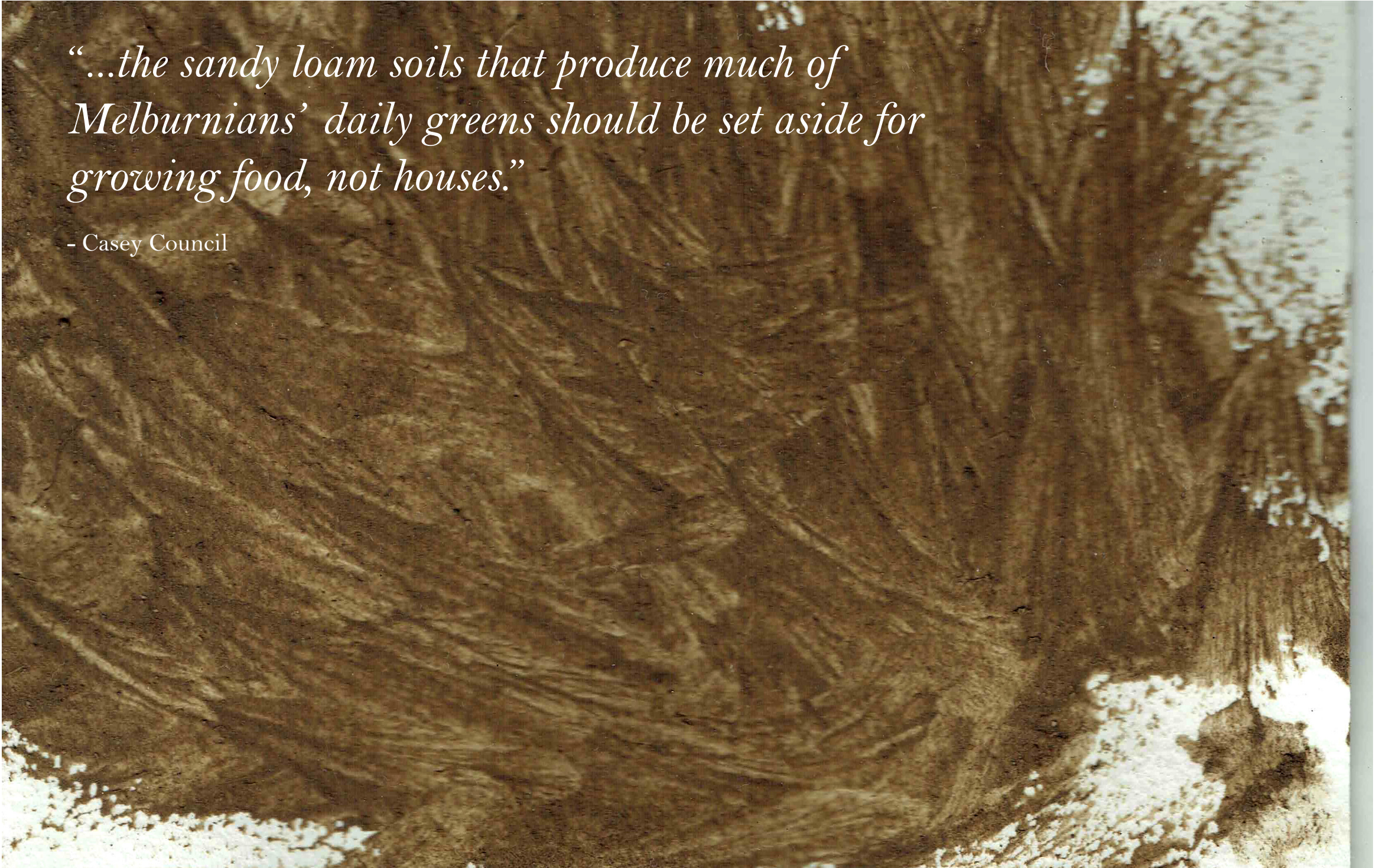


“Regenerative agriculture has some of the best solutions to solving a lot of our planetary ills.”



*“...the sandy loam soils that produce much of
Melburnians’ daily greens should be set aside for
growing food, not houses.”*

- Casey Council



*“...the sandy loam soils that produce much of
Melburnians’ daily greens should be set aside for
growing food, not houses.”*

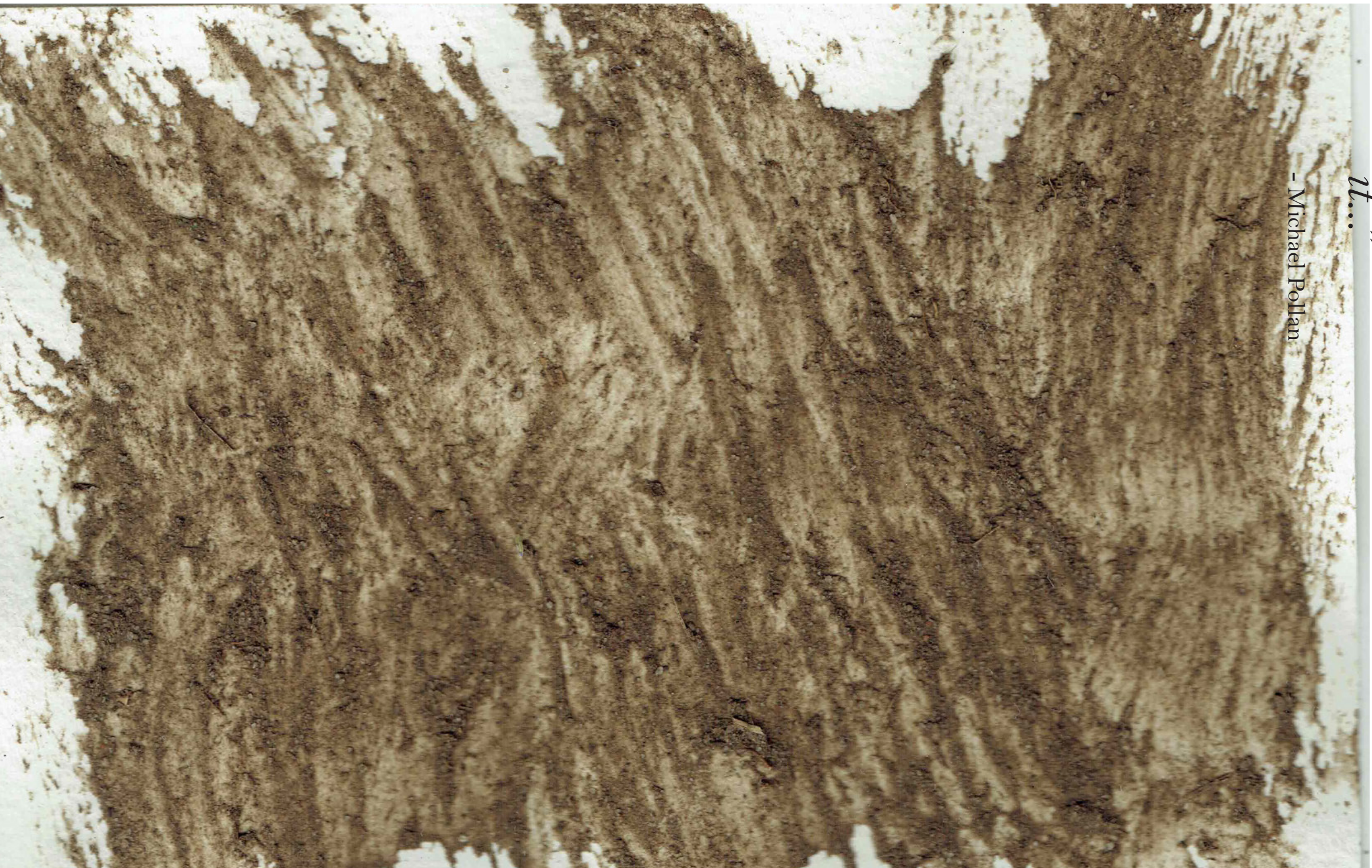
- Casey Council



*“...competition for prime agricultural land, affects a
range of ecosystem services...”*

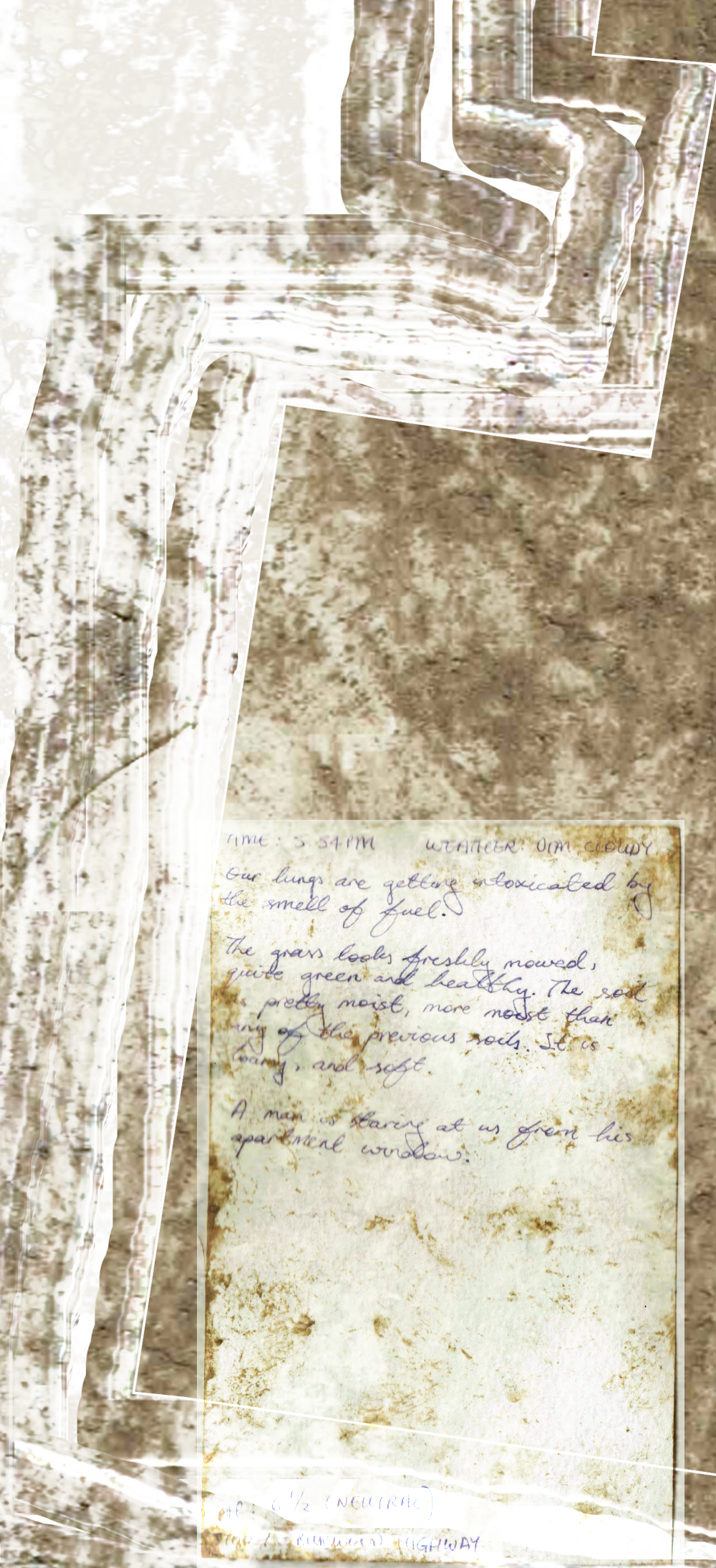
“The metaphores we use to describe the natural world strongly influence the way we approach it...”

- Michael Pollan



Site 07:
Burwood Highway





PH: 6½

TIME: 5:54 PM WEATHER: 01M CLOUDY
Our lungs are getting intoxicated by
the smell of fuel.

The grass looks freshly mowed,
quite green and healthy. The soil
is pretty moist, more moist than
any of the previous soils. It is
loamy, and soft.

A man is staring at us from his
apartment window.

PH: 6½ (NEUTRAL)
TIME: 5:54 PM WEATHER: 01M CLOUDY



the soil feels soft, but gritty

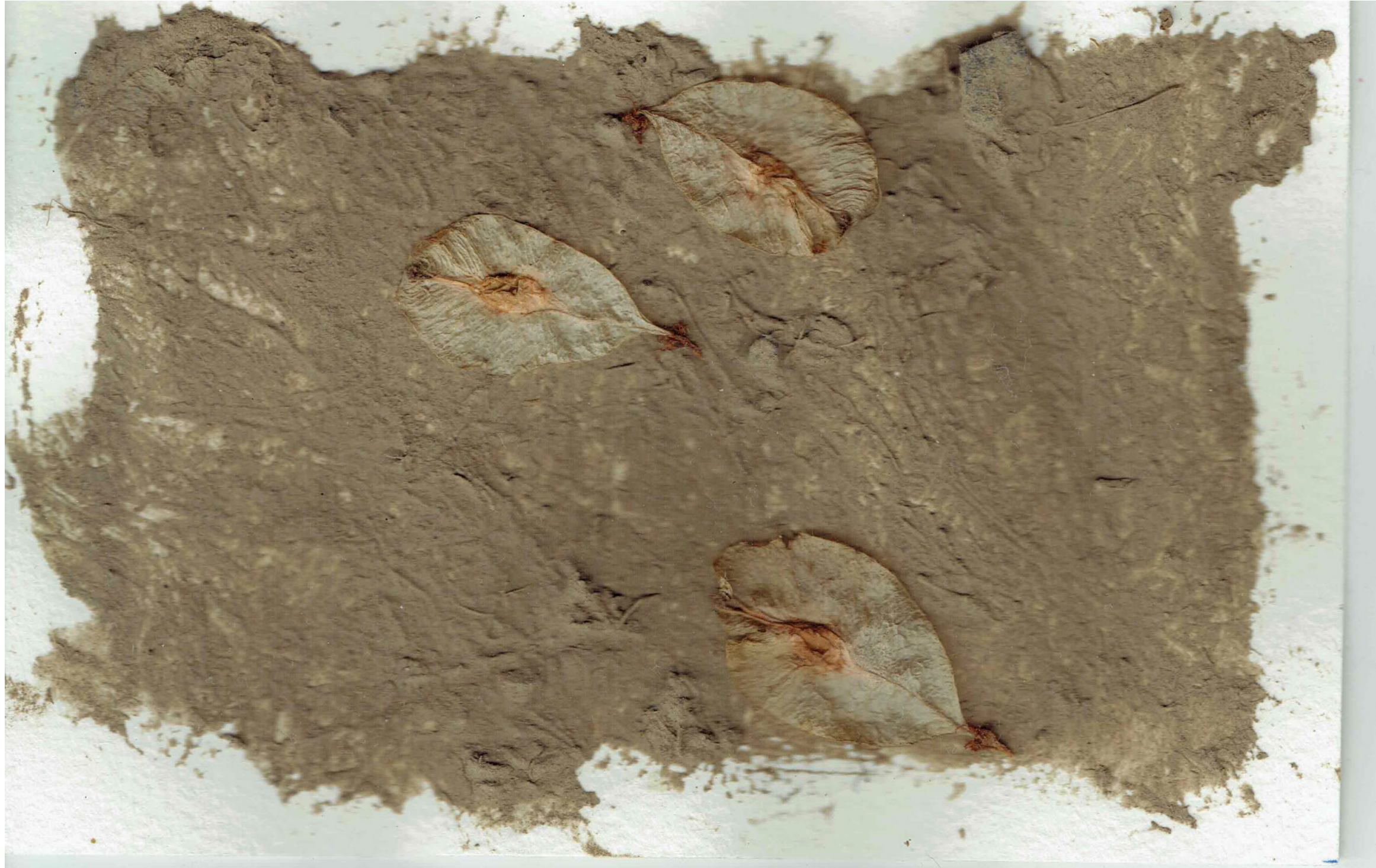
*“We can take on land that’s fairly run
down and start to turn it around.”*

- Charles Massey



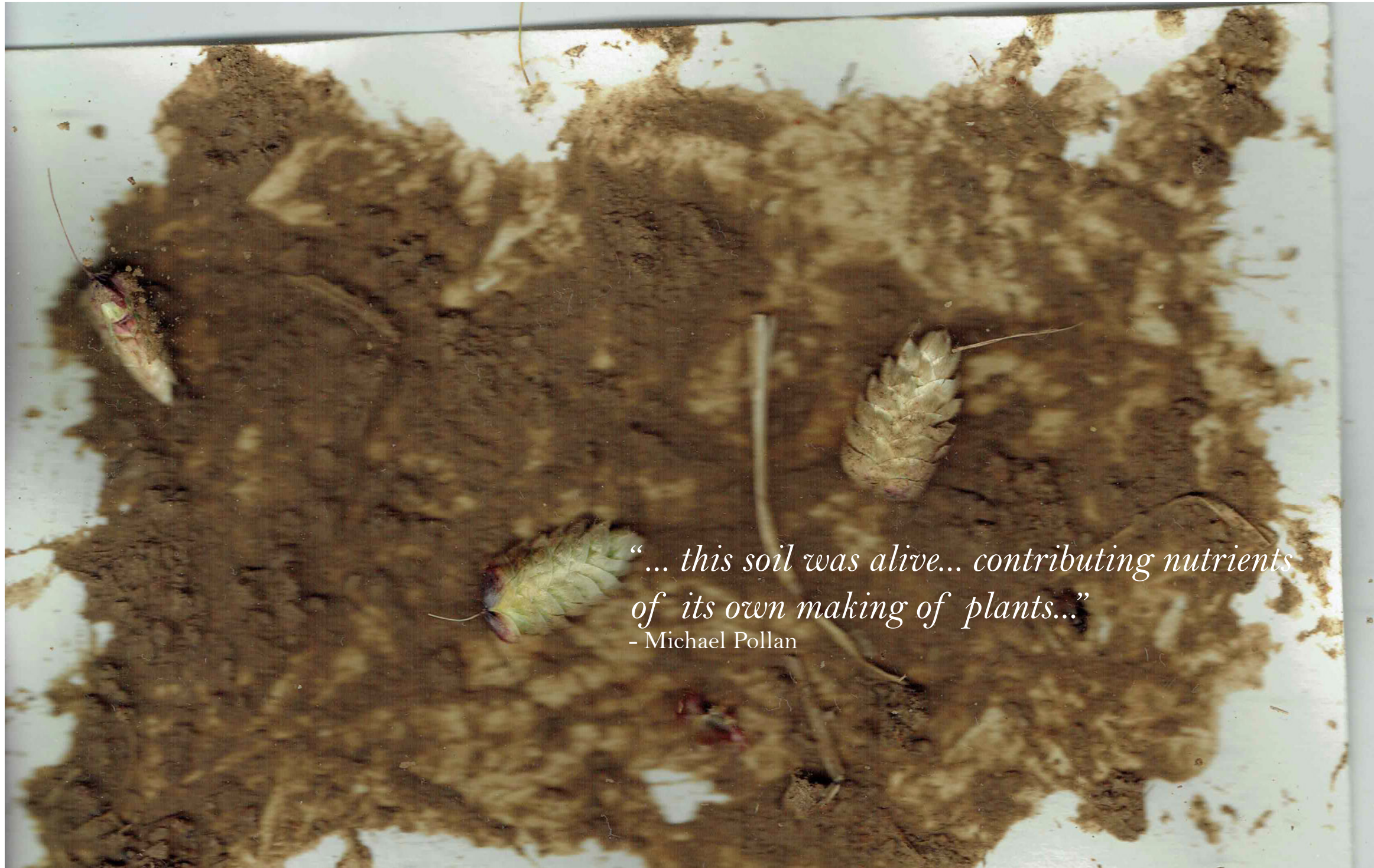
“Widespread scaremongering has effectively led to the deflation of property value and the refusal to grant mortgages to homeowners...”

- Cooking Sections, Devaluing Property Real Estate Agency





*"Plants that grow in
alkaline soils will grow
in acid soils, but the
reverse will not work."*

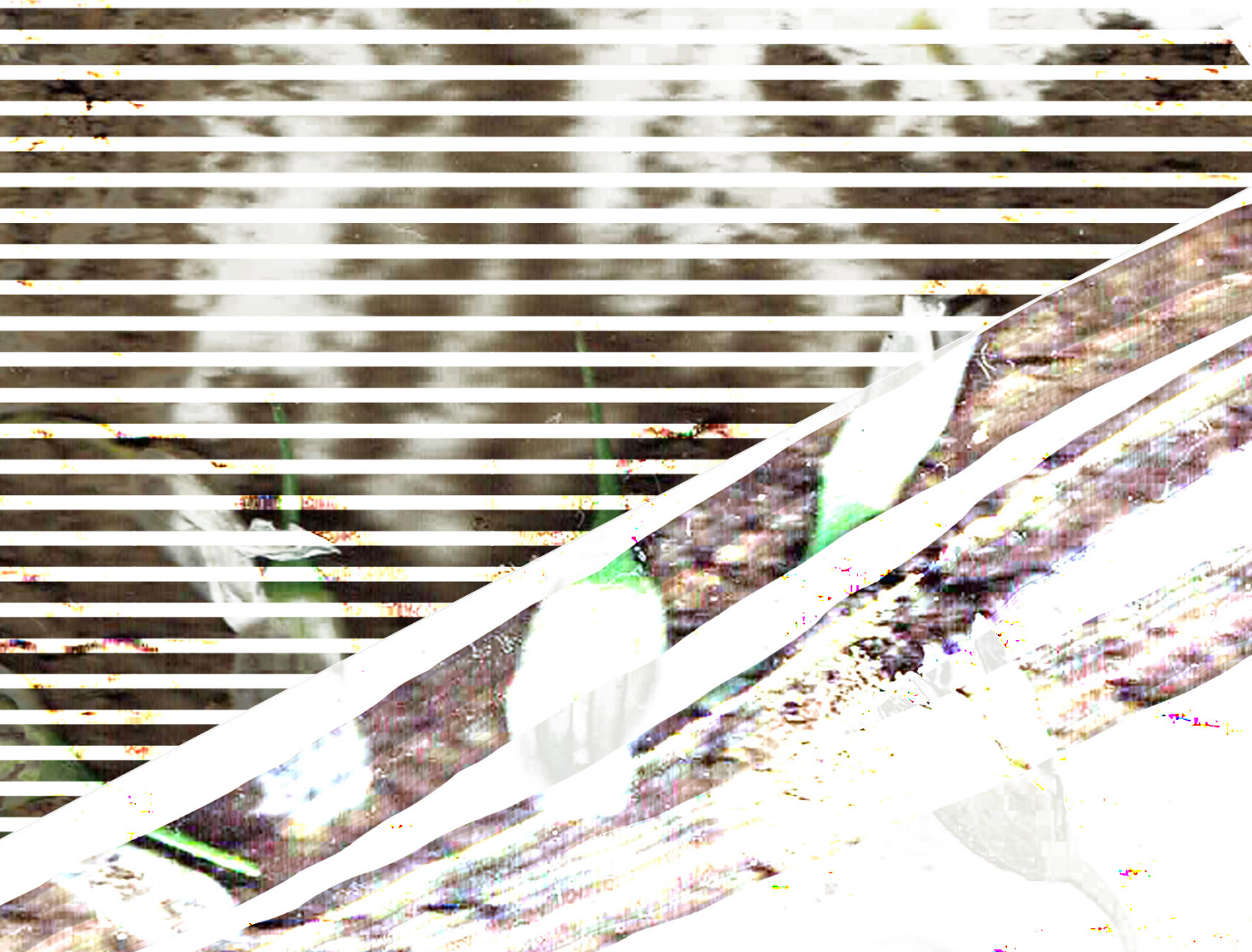


*"... this soil was alive... contributing nutrients
of its own making of plants..."*
- Michael Pollan



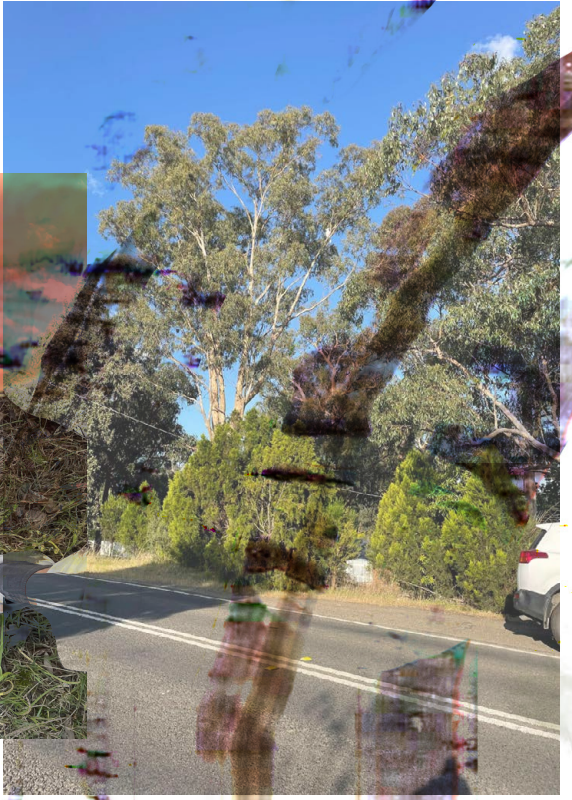
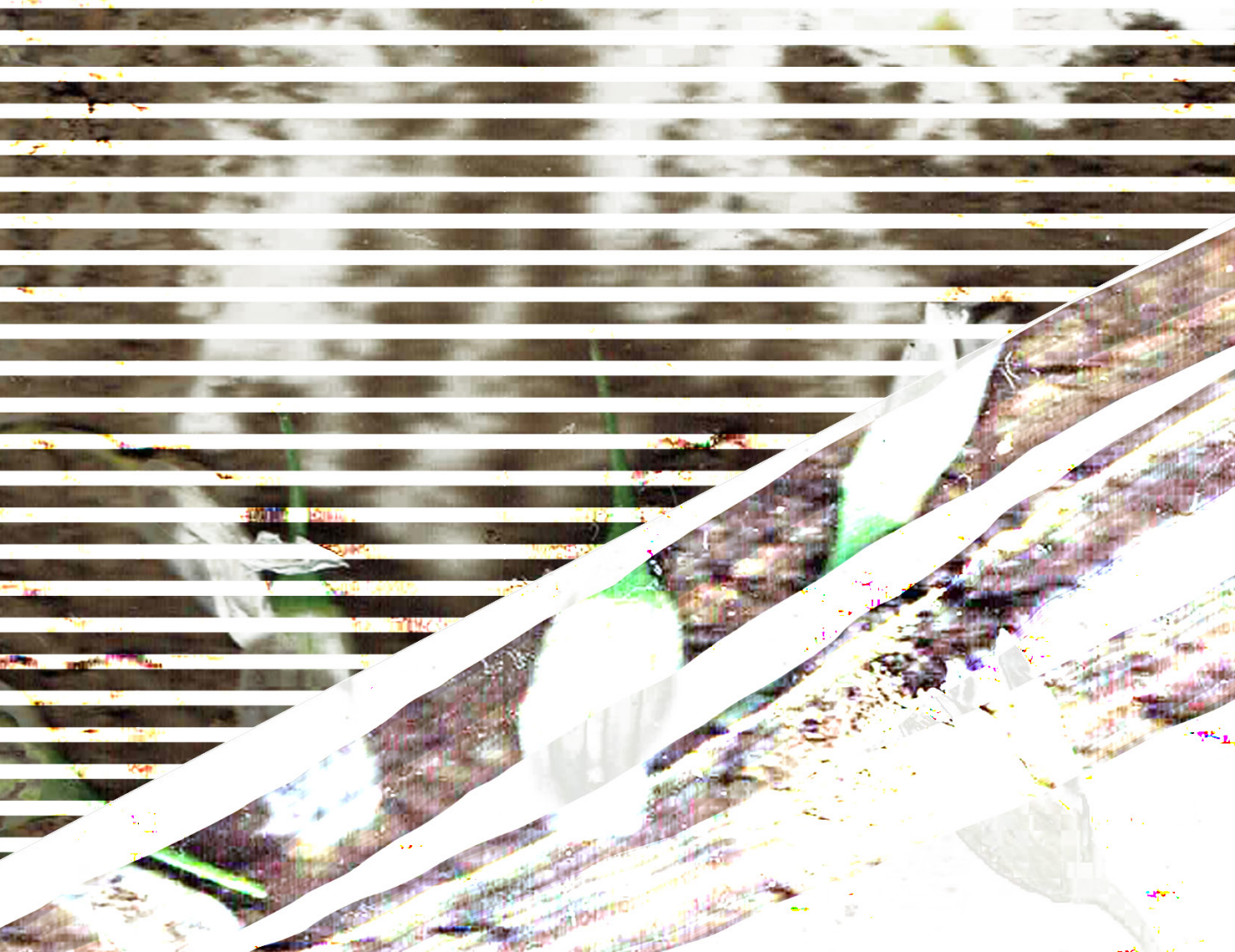
Site 12:
Beaconsfield-Emerald
Road





PH: 6



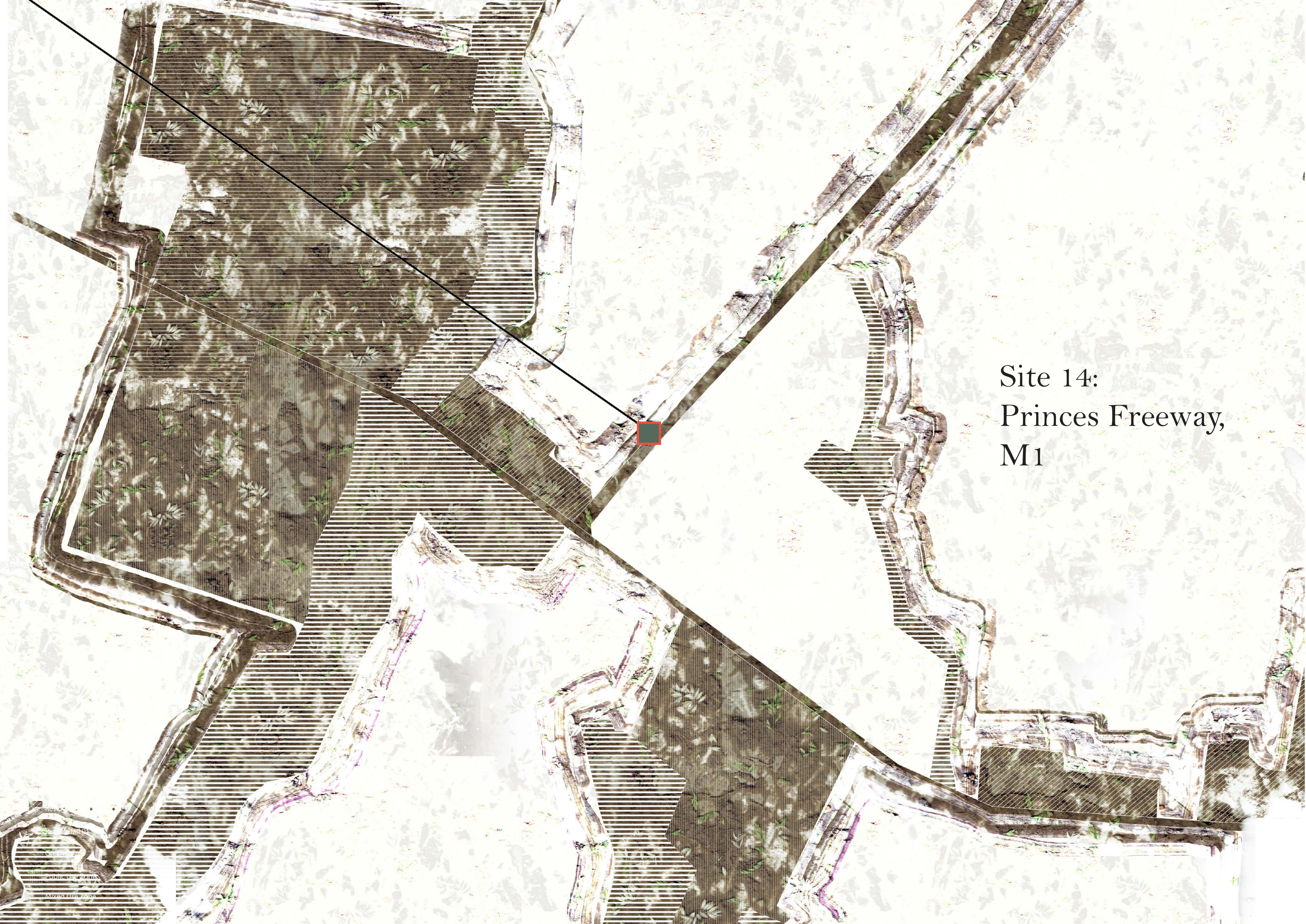


the smell fills the air





the sound of flowing water

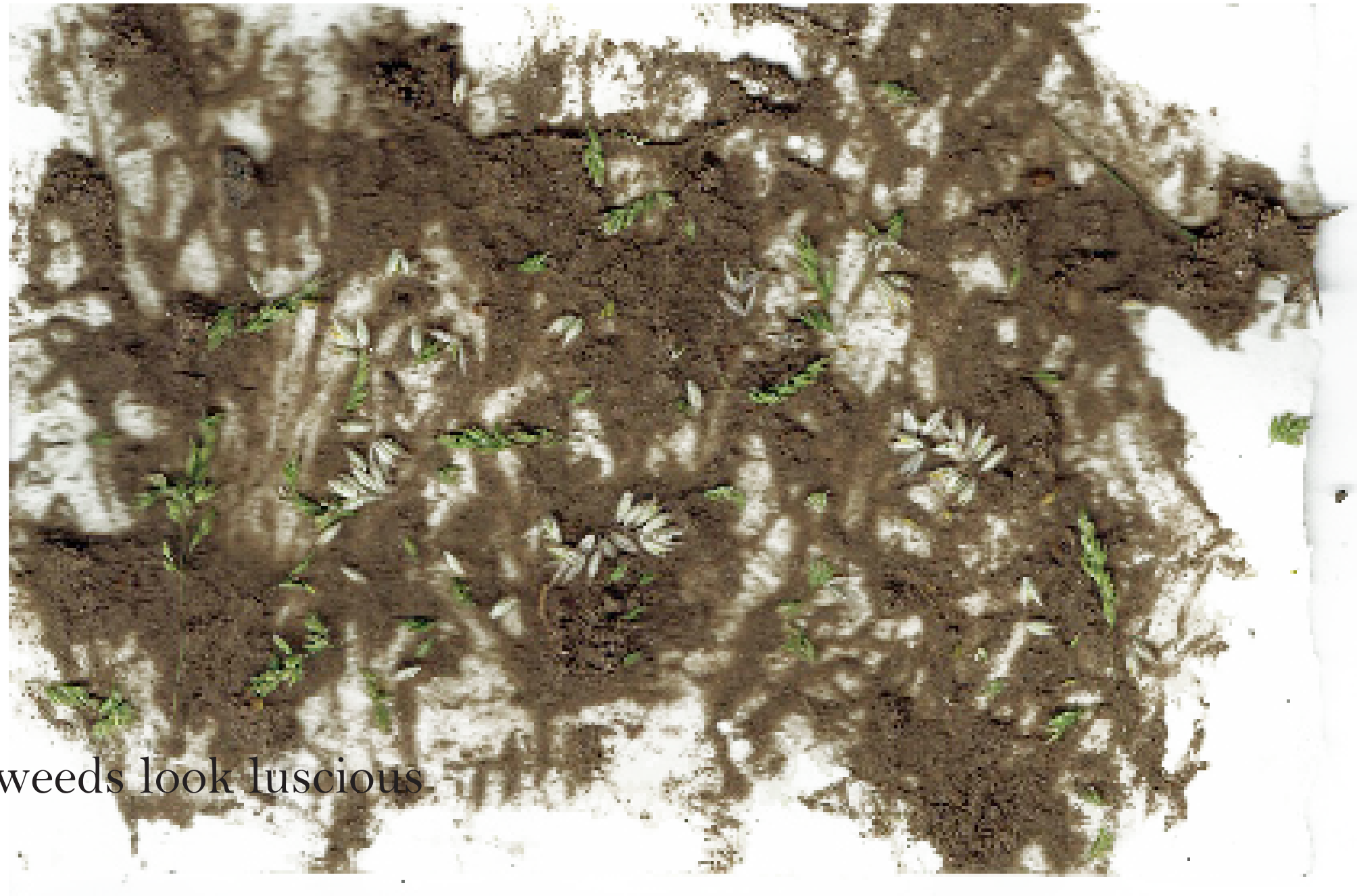


Site 14:
Princes Freeway,
M1





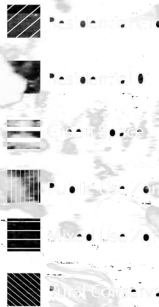
PH: 6½



even the weeds look luscious

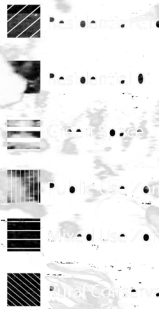


life wants to live





there are spring onions
everywhere!



Reflection

Throughout our project, we have investigated soil qualities at 14 extraction points along the transect from Ceres Community Garden to the fringe of The Bunyip Food Belt.

As we progressed in our investigations, we gained a deeper understanding not only of the discovered qualities but also of our anticipated findings and methods. We came to understand their limits and the difference between the planning and actual implementation of our methods.

The methods that turned into rituals evolved and adjusted to the specific sites and findings. Most surprisingly, the pH value of the soil remained within the 'neutral' 6-7 range, which indicated (and proved) that fresh produce would flourish within the city.

If we were to proceed with these findings, a speculative project that integrates food production within the urban fabric would be an alternative to the growing 'invisible' arms of the city.

Would the city be willing to invite food into it's fabric, and start densifying instead of outgrowing?

Working as a group created an environment for constructive discussions, where each of our differences and similarities contributed to the final outcome